



AGL NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING No. 29 HELD AT HUNTER REGION BOTANIC GARDENS AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO-CONFERENCING ON WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 10am

PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION
	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
	Brett Hoad (BH)	Transport for NSW - Deputy Project Director M1 Extension to Raymond Terrace <i>online*</i>
	Kevin Taylor (KT)*	AGL – Head of Generation (Gas & Renewables)
	Kourosh Maleklou (KM)	AGL - Asset Manager for NGSF
	Joanne Ferguson (JF)	AGL – Community Relations Manager
	Zoe Bowen (ZB)	AGL – Senior Environmental Advisor, Gas Assets
	Charlie Perry (CP)	AGL – Snr Project Manager, Battery Project <i>online*</i>
	Michael Law (ML)	AGL – Site Manager
	Kim Baker (KB)	PSC – Coordinator of Natural Systems
	John Simpson (JS)	Hunter Water Delegate
	Rick Martinelli (RM)	Transport for NSW – Community Engagement Lead
	Rob Cooper (RC)	AG – Snr Manager Stakeholder Engagement
APOLOGIES	Mayor, Cr Leah Anderson	Port Stephens Council
	Cr Paul Le Mottee	Port Stephens Council (alternate delegate)
	Monica Porte	John Holland & Gamuda Australia - Community & Stakeholder Engagement Lead
	Ken Page	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
	Leigh Ridgeway	NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group & Worimi Board member
	Danny Oakley	Tomago Aluminium
	Kate Drinan	Port Stephens Council
	Karen Varker	Port Stephens Koala Hospital
	Dianne Ball (DB)	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation

**Attended via video-conferencing.*

The CDG meeting was opened at 10.00am.

Acknowledgement of Country – LA delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

WELCOME	LA welcomed all attendees to the AGL Newcastle Gas Storage Facility Community Dialogue Group (CDG) and introduced Kim Baker, Coordinator of Natural Systems with Port Stephens. Stating that Charlie Perry & Brett Hoad were joining online. All attendees stated their name and position on the CDG.	
APOLOGIES	As listed above.	
DECLARATIONS	LA advised that she is an Independent Chairperson, approved by the Department of Planning engaged by AGL to chair this CDG.	No changes to members' previous declarations.

<p>BUSINESS ARISING</p>	<p>The minutes from the previous meeting held on 26 November 2025 were finalised and sent to members on 15 December 2025. There were two action items:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="475 275 1142 501"> <thead> <tr> <th>ITEM</th> <th>ISSUE</th> <th>BY WHOM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>ZB to arrange the HRBG Orchid Team to visit the Medowie Offset property to survey the site.</td> <td>ZB/KP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Workshop potential First Nations employment opportunities with BESS.</td> <td>DB/MC</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>No other business arising.</p>	ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM	1	ZB to arrange the HRBG Orchid Team to visit the Medowie Offset property to survey the site.	ZB/KP	2	Workshop potential First Nations employment opportunities with BESS.	DB/MC	<p>1. Carry over. When season permits.</p> <p>2. Complete. Industry Day (workshop) held 2 weeks ago.</p>
ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM									
1	ZB to arrange the HRBG Orchid Team to visit the Medowie Offset property to survey the site.	ZB/KP									
2	Workshop potential First Nations employment opportunities with BESS.	DB/MC									
<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6/12/25 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review. • 15/12/25 - Email to members with the finalised minutes & presentation. • 5/2/26 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting. • 23/2/26 – Email to members with reminder for this meeting. 	<p>As provided with meeting notice – emailed 5/2/26.</p>									
<p>NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY UPDATE (KM)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major incidents, MTIs or LTIs • Ongoing safety walk program and verifications conducted with a focus on environment, process safety and critical risks (heights, HV, etc.) • Permitted work increased by 25% from the same period last year • 3 yearly Hazard Audit completed February 2026 (as per conditions of DA) • Tank level 1,145 TJ Filling to re-commence on 16 March • Planned maintenance activities completed • Some major projects under way • Safety Case preparation ongoing <p>JS questioned if the Hazard Audit was mandated by licencing requirements and carried out in accordance with Australian Standards. KT confirmed that it is easier to do a complete new risk assessment. AGL engage an independent third party facilitator to undertake in accordance with legislative requirements.</p> <p>KM provided details of a recent recipient of AGL’s “Championing Our Values: Be Safe, Be Supportive” Energise Award Winner - Albert Jones who had identified a missing gland on a high-pressure isolation valve. Al promptly reported the fault, sought guidance, and worked with experts to determine the best approach. He researched options and fabricated a temporary gland to maintain plant safety while keeping operations uninterrupted.</p> <p>KM commented that NGSF staff have won this award twice now.</p>	<p>Slide 4</p> <p>Slide 5</p>									

<p>ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE (ZB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero environmental incidents in this quarter • Water monitoring event completed in September 2025 – final report received December 2025 • Groundwater results were below the adopted AGL groundwater guidelines (i.e. no exceedances) • NGSF is not having a significant impact on local groundwater elevations • Zinc levels in HP1 remained consistent with historical results • Fluoride levels detected at SW3 & SW4 remained consistent with historical records. • Next water monitoring event planned for March • 6M NPI data collated <p>KT enquired about the fluoride levels in the creek. ZB responded that this does occur naturally. JS commented that background levels are related to the Tomago smelter’s contribution of natural fluoride. JS wondered why zinc had been specifically raised as it’s not a concern, with ZB saying that the consultant had pulled the figures from the report.</p> <p>JS confirmed that he is still to review the monitoring program, but hopes to get to it soon.</p>	<p>Slide 6</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE - MEDOWIE OFFSET PROPERTY (ZB)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues experienced at the property in the last quarter • Slashing of access tracks undertaken last week <p>KB enquired whether the Medowie property is a formal site under the BCT program. ZB responded that it is part of the planning approval and is a private arrangement.</p> <p>KT asked if there had been any more illegal trespassing on the site (4WD, bikes, etc). ZB said there hasn’t, however, the site has been quite wet and hoped that the recent slashing won’t encourage this activity.</p> <p>KB enquired whether there has been any monitoring for wild dogs. ZB advised that there has been some dingoes and deer. KB stated that there have been incidents of land owners in Medowie reporting attacks on domestic animals; suggesting ZB speak with LLS to discuss a coordinated program. Discussions about movements of domestic animals and genetics between dingoes and wild dogs.</p>	<p>Slide 7 with photographs of before and after slashing</p>
<p>COMMUNITY (JF)</p>	<p>JF provided an update on AGL’s Volunteering Program for staff and showcased the experience of a new staff member helping the Port Stephens Neighbourhood and Family Services, wrapping presents at Christmas time.</p>	<p>Slide 9</p>

	<p>Wahroonga Bush Christmas – a pictorial overview of this event was shown. JF explained how successful and rewarding the day was.</p> <p>Youyoong Junior Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) Leadership Camp A First Nations youth leadership program delivered by Youyoong AECG. Youyoong is a Worimi word meaning to go further which reflects the camps focus on cultural pride, confidence and leadership development. Elders and community leaders are actively involved to support cultural learning and mentoring.</p> <p>Upcoming Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Newcastle Show – Silver Sponsor supporting the Honey Competition and backyard beekeepers. Supporting backyard beekeepers matters far beyond just producing local honey — it directly impacts biodiversity, food security, and healthy ecosystems. ➤ International Women’s Day Event – Murrook Cultural Centre. Monday, 9 March. The 2026 theme Balance the Scales is a promise that every woman and girl – regardless of background or identity – should be safe, heard, and free to shape their own lives. ➤ Clontarf Academies Hunter River School & Irrawang Touring NGSF – Tuesday 17 March. The students will learn about site operations and meet some of the team to hear about their roles at AGL. ➤ Clontarf NSW Hunter Employment Forum – Monday, 23 March. The Hunter Employment Forum provides a valuable opportunity for our Year 11 and 12 students to access essential information regarding pathways to employment with our partner organisations. This year’s forum will bring together 130 senior students from the Chatham, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Irrawang, Hunter River, Kurri Kurri and Newcastle Academies, supported by 24 Clontarf Partner organisations participating on the day. ➤ Volunteering with Friends of Tomaree NP – Tree planting day at Boat Harbour on Thursday, 30 April. 2000 trees and shrubs to be planted along the Tomaree Coastal Walk. 	<p>Slide 10</p> <p>Slide 11</p> <p>Slide 12</p>
<p>FY26 HALF-YEAR RESULTS 11 FEBRUARY 2026 (KT)</p>	<p>KT provided an overview of AGL’s half yearly results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong first half result driven by improved operational performance FY26 guidance narrowed • Significant improvement in operational performance in the half (customer and generation & storage portfolio) • Market context - Long term trends and opportunities (market observations and longer term trends and opportunities) • AGL to divest its telco business and enters into a long-term strategic partnership with Aussie 	<p>Slides 13 - 24</p>

	<p>Broadband (divestment of telco business and creation of a strategic partnership)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher commercial availability and plant flexibility enabled AGL to generate when market conditions were most favourable, despite a period of low volatility • Growth in residential battery adoption beneficial to the transition and presents opportunities for AGL • Record peak demand in 2025, with a strong long-term outlook driven by data centres, electrification and sustained smelter operations • Strong financial result driven by improved operational performance • Approximately \$650 million of growth capital investment planned for FY26 to advance firming projects • AGL's 300 MW operating battery fleet continues to perform strongly, delivering \$35 million EBITDA contribution in the half • Progressing our development projects and strengthening our pipeline. <p>JS asked whether the decision to not proceed with offshore wind projects was due to public backlash. KT stated that these type of projects are cost prohibitive.</p>	
<p>TOMAGO BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM 500MW/2000MWh (4 hours duration) (CP)</p>	<p>CP provided the Tomago BESS presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tomago Battery Sod Turning. Pictorial overview of recent sod turning with Minister Bowen, local MPs and Mayor of PSC. • The shovel used at the event was made by a blacksmith from materials recycled from the old Liddell site. <p>KT asked how many OSOM loads will there be to deliver batteries to site. CP advised that there will be less than 12 escorted loads (those requiring police front and back), however, there will be hundreds of normal loads.</p> <p>KM advised that Transport for NSW is planning to work on Old Punt Road, so is not sure if these works will happen after critical items are brought to site, so suggested CP contact them. CP confirmed that he is in discussions with Transport for NSW.</p> <p>BH advised that there is a proposal in place to carry out works on Old Punt Road, which won't commence until the M1 is open. There is a fair bit of design work to be done yet for Old Punt Road, so it won't be completed for another 12 months. Early works commencing late 2026.</p>	<p>Slide 25-27</p>

	KT advised that signage needs to be maintained for the pipeline.	
GENERAL BUSINESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JS advised that Hunter Water is working on the water main in Old Punt Road (#19). A few weeks ago, temporary repairs were carried out and now undertaking permanent works. Reminder that workers need to call AGL and not Jemena. As per signage – AGL own the gas line from the site to Hexham, under the river. Jemena is the local pipeline only (distribution system for domestic). 	
NEXT MEETING	LA advised that the next meeting date will be Wednesday 27 May 2026, at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens, commencing at 10am.*	Agreed. KM advised that he will be an apology.

Meeting closed at 11.00am with LA thanking members for their attendance and contribution.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	ZB to arrange the HRBG Orchid Team to visit the Medowie Offset property to survey the site	ZB/KP

****Postscript: Following a request from AGL, the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th June 2026, still at 10am at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens.***