



AGL NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING No. 29 HELD AT HUNTER REGION BOTANIC GARDENS AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO-CONFERENCING ON WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2025 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
	Samantha Nunan (SN)	AGL – Senior Environmental 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
	Marie Cullen (MC)	Fluence – Head of Procurement BESS
	Ken Page (KP)	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens
	John Moraitis (JM)	AGL – Environment Manager <i>online*</i>
	Dianne Ball (DB)	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation
	Zona Kelly (ZK)	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation
APOLOGIES	Mayor, Cr Leah Anderson	Port Stephens Council
	Monica Porte	John Holland & Gamuda Australia - Community & Stakeholder Engagement Lead
	John Simpson	Hunter Water Delegate
	Leigh Ridgeway	NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group & Worimi Board member
	Danny Oakley	Tomago Aluminium
	Kate Drinan	Port Stephens Council
ABSENT:	Mike Cowell	Port Stephens Koalas
	Peter Gessling	Hunter Business Chamber

**Attended via video-conferencing.*

The CDG meeting was opened at 10.04am.

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 recognised John Moraitis, Charlie Perry & Brett Hoad joining online. All attendees stated their name and position on the CDG.	
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APOLOGIES	As listed above. LA advised that Robyn Parker is retiring from Tomago Aluminium and Danny Oakley will be the new representative on the CDG moving forward.													
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.												
BUSINESS ARISING	<p>The minutes from the previous meeting held on 2 September 2025 were finalised and sent to members on 21 September 2025. There were three action items:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>ITEM</th><th>ISSUE</th><th>BY WHOM</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Present on 1080 baiting program</td><td>JM</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Advise what the percentage of employment is for indigenous people on the Tomago Battery Project</td><td>CP</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>Advise LA of shirt sizes</td><td>ALL</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>No other business arising.</p>	ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM	1	Present on 1080 baiting program	JM	2	Advise what the percentage of employment is for indigenous people on the Tomago Battery Project	CP	3	Advise LA of shirt sizes	ALL	<p>1. Complete. See Slide 9.</p> <p>2. Complete. See Slide 21</p> <p>3. Complete.</p>
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1	Present on 1080 baiting program	JM												
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CORRESPONDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12/9/25 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review. 21/9/25 - Email to members with the finalised minutes & presentation. 8/10/25 – Email to members with M1 extension update. 14/11/25 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting. 24/11/25 – Email to members with reminder for this meeting. 	As provided with meeting notice – emailed 14/11/25.												
NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY UPDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major incident, MTIs or LTIs Major projects implemented including FW system, ethylene loading, etc. Liquefaction season started Liquefied 600 TJ gas since September NSW SafeWork audit carried out – minor scaffolding issues identified and rectified New Safety Case commenced – license to be renewed in 2027 	Slide 4												
ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual environmental return was submitted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement of compliance with licence Pollution fee calculation (emissions) Test of pollution incident response plan Water monitoring completed (6 monthly) - awaiting report Bushfire preparedness completed – ember attack Mock drill o Bushfire evacuation to test operator knowledge of tertiary escape paths Zero environmental incidents in this quarter. Medowie Offset Property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual report submitted to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust Currently in Year 10 of the 20 year property management term 	<p>Slide 5</p> <p>Slides 6 – 8 with photographs</p>												

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues experienced at the property in the last quarter Rehab area is progressing well <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angophora costata (Smooth barked apple) Eucalyptus piperita (Sydney Peppermint) 	
1080 BAITING PROGRAM (ACTION ITEM 1 FROM Q3 CDG)	<p>Sodium fluoroacetate (1080 poison):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1080 is used to bait wild dogs rising and correspondence It is a restricted use pesticide, available to authorised and trained users under APVMA licensing Only pre-mixed baits can be used (e.g. meat) Safety protocols must be followed including how the bait is presented and managed, notifications to landholders etc Impacts on native animals are possible (e.g. secondary poisoning) While Cool Burn has been involved with the site, we have not used baiting because there is no evidence that wild dogs/dingoes need to be controlled. 	Slide 9
ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM STAFF CHANGE	<p>Introducing Zoe Bowen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoe has 20 years' experience in gas, and is passionate about environmental management Zoe will be managing several gas assets across Australia and has been a highly valued member of the team since commencing several months ago JM is leaving AGL and thanked the group for its support over the years. 	LA thanked JM for his professionalism and contribution on the CDG over the years. Wishing him well with his future endeavours.
COMMUNITY	<p>Murrook Cultural Festival - Wakulda</p> <p>JF presented on her recent attendance at the festival with colleague Melissa Clearly.</p> <p>Wakulda "As One", symbolises shared responsibility, unity, respect and coming together in celebration of culture on Worimi Country. It is a reminder that when people gather as one, ties are strengthened between community, culture and Country, walking together.</p> <p>Tackling Bitou Bush – Volunteering with Friends of Tomaree National Park. JF provided commentary and photographs of the recent volunteer work undertaken by AGL staff with the Friends of Tomaree National Park removing Bitou Bush from a section of the Tomaree Coastal Track</p>	<p>Slide 12 with photographs</p> <p>Slide 13 with photographs</p>

	<p>Community Calendar</p> <p>Youyoong Local AECG Junior Leadership Camp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thursday 20th and 21st November ○ AGL Mob invited to attend and meet students ○ Proudly sponsored by the Tomago Battery Power development team. <p>Wahroonga Bush Christmas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Friday 5th December 2025 ○ Proudly sponsored by NGSF & Tomago Battery Construction team. <p>DB invited AGL staff to attend to assist with the handing out of Christmas presents to the children.</p> <p>Port Stephens Family & Neighbourhood Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Christmas wrapping fundraiser ○ AGL volunteers from NGSF supporting. <p>The Neighbourhood Centre is seeking volunteers to help wrap presents in two hour shifts over 7 scheduled days.</p> <p>Powering our Community</p> <p>AGL is proudly supporting the Worimi Local Aboriginal Land Council through its “Powering Our Community” program. As part of this initiative, AGL will be providing a 14.96kW solar system along with battery storage. This project aims to enhance sustainability and energy independence for the Land Council’s future community hub space in Raymond Terrace.</p> <p>AGL will be working with IndigieBuilt for the supply and install on this project. IndigieBuilt are a local First Nations owned and operated business and committed to paving the way for future generations through employment opportunities for young Indigenous people to start a career in the NSW building industry.</p>	<p>Slide 15</p>
<p>TOMAGO BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM 500MW/2000MWh (4 hours duration)</p>	<p>CP provided the Tomago BESS presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGL and Port Stephens Council Voluntary Planning Agreement – to be executed following exhibition period (finishes 26-Nov). • s138 Approval for Site Entry received • Project Management Plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approved (by DPHI): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biodiversity Management Plan ▪ Cultural Heritage Management Plan ▪ Environmental Management Strategy ▪ Soil and Water Management Plan • Under development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Traffic Management Plan ○ Emergency Management Plan 	<p>Slide 18</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Construction Environmental Management Plan ○ Fire Safety Study (required prior to energisation) 	
	<p>Construction Schedule Overview</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing to commence shortly leading to bulk civil works in first half of 2026 • Busy second half of 2026 with battery installation, reticulation and substation construction • Focus of 2027 energisation and commissioning to achieve full operation (after hold point testing) by end of 2027. 	Slide 19
	<p>Team Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Law, Site Manager • Andrew Brajliah, Approvals Manager (replaces Michelle Nettlefold) • Amy Pocock-Polson, First Nations' and Regional Development Specialist (demonstration of AGL's commitment to pursuing First Nations employment and contracting opportunities in the Hunter region). 	Slide 20
	<p>AGL First Nations & Regional Engagement</p> <p>The nature of the project's targets for the Construction phase include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of Indigenous Businesses engaged to deliver part of the Work as % of contract value, • % of FTE roles undertaken by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders • % of Contract Value is contracted to local businesses based in the Hunter- Central Coast Renewable Energy Zone and adjacent local government areas. <p>A number of strategies are being pursued (as noted on the slide) in particular facilitating direct introductions between Fluence and the local businesses and employment services to secure works packages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	Slide 21
	<p>First Nations' and Regional Development Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGL Wins "Industry Partner of the Year" – NSWICC Awards 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGL was recognised at <i>the Summit 2025</i> for its outstanding partnerships with Indigenous businesses. • AGL partners with Guppur Men and Youth Shed - in October, Justin Ridgeway, Aboriginal Elder of the Worimi people and of the Murrook Cultural Centre along with Raymond McMillan of The Worimi Green Team visited the Tomago BESS site to identify and mark trees suitable for timber collection. The timber will be repurposed for the Guparr Men and Youth Shed, where Justin leads cultural education programs and teaching community members' traditional skills such as crafting tools and weapons. • AGL partners JobLink Plus at Maitland Connection Day – 19 November <p>Follow up discussion:</p> <p>DB discussed the potential for youth employment with the battery project. MC stated that Fluence were happy to engage and partner with the group to assist in skilling up prospective employees.</p> <p>DB stated that training is currently being carried out in Cool Burning, Artefact management, cultural awareness, etc.</p> <p>DB commented on their group's involvement on the Hunter REZ Steering Committee and how it was important for all First Nations Groups to be involved as the REZ covered a number of different LALC areas (Worimi Nation, Wonaruah, Awabakal, etc).</p>	<p>Slide 22 Action: Tomago Project Team to make contact with DB/ZK to workshop potential employment opportunities.</p> <p>Slide 23</p>
AGL UPDATE	<p>KT provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hunter Liddell BESS and Tomago BESS projects are an example of AGL's shift from bulk generators to help others to make power work for the entire community. • AGL are spending \$1.5M for the two big battery projects. • Have sold 20% share of TILT renewables to secure \$750M of revenue. • Batteries are helping to assist housetop solar that is generating power and storing into the batteries. • Have secured power purchase agreements with wind farms to buy power from two developers (1 in WA and 1 in SA). <p>ZK raised concern with the current media reports of asbestos being found in brake pads of the turbines purchased from China. KT responded that these were</p>	

	<p>Goldwind turbines and AGL will be purchasing Investas turbines, which are tried and true in Australia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGL have signed with Siemens to buy four gas turbines (\$180M) to help with firming power. Other technology is needed to support coal. <p>ZK stated that gas prices have gone up. KT responded that AGL's gas is domestic. Commenting that a lot of gas is sent overseas and that market pays more, which pushes gas prices up.</p> <p>DB asked about the future for consumers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KT advised that the federal government have a Capacity Investment Scheme, pushing renewable projects. Renewable Energy Zones throughout NSW are building transmission lines to enable renewable projects (solar & wind) to connect to these new grids. As these come on line, prices will come down. 	
GENERAL BUSINESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KP raised the previous commitment by AGL to arrange for the Orchid Team to visit the Medowie Offset property to undertake an orchid survey. It had previously been arranged prior to Spring this year, however, the site was under water. KM asked BH about construction works on Old Punt Road. BH advised that the finalisation of the road junction is still on track for February 2026, despite a recent fatality on site a few weeks ago. DB advised that their First Nations Group is available to assist AGL in its upcoming Battery Project. DB stated that they are working with the government on a climate change program to feed their mob, which involves shipping containers and hydroponics to grow fresh produce. Commenting that AGL may wish to assist with this initiative. 	Action.
MEETING DATES FOR 2026	<p>LA proposed the same schedule as previous years, quarterly meetings, Wednesdays, at the Hunter Region Botanic Gardens, commencing at 10am.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Q1 Wednesday 25 February 2026  Q2 Wednesday 27 May 2026  Q3 Wednesday 26 August 2026; and  Wednesday 25 November 2026. 	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>KM advised that he will be an apology for the Q2 meeting.</p>

Meeting closed at 11.21am with LA thanking members for their attendance and contribution throughout 2025. Wishing everyone a merry Christmas.

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
2	Workshop potential First Nations employment opportunities with BESS	APP/MC/DB/ZK