



## AGL NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE GROUP

### MINUTES OF MEETING No. 27 HELD AT NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY, TOMAGO GARDENS AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIDEO-CONFERENCING ON WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE 2025 AT 10am

PRESENT	NAME	ORGANISATION
	Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
	Cr Paul Le Mottee	Port Stephens Council (on behalf of Mayor)
	John McCormack (JMc)	AGL –
	Arianna Henty (AH)	AGL – Snr Manager - Approvals
	Aaron Clifton (AC)*	AGL –
	Kourosh Maleklou (KM)	AGL - Asset Manager for NGSF
	Rob Cooper (RC)	AGL -
	Joanne Ferguson (JF)	AGL – Community Relations Coordinator
	Amelia O'Neill (AO)	AGL – Environment Manager, Battery Project
	Carina Steinbakk (CS)	AGL – Project Manager
	Robyn Parker (RP)	Tomago Aluminium
	Leigh Ridgeway (LR)	NSW Aboriginal Education Consultative Group & Worimi Board member
	Ken Page (KP)*	Hunter Region Botanic Gardens <i>online</i>
	Brett Hoad (BH)*	Transport for NSW - Deputy Project Director M1 Extension to Raymond Terrace <i>online</i>
APOLOGIES	Mayor, Cr Leah Anderson	Port Stephens Council
	Monica Porte	John Holland & Gamuda Australia - Community & Stakeholder Engagement Lead
	John Simpson	Hunter Water Delegate
	Dianne Ball	Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation
ABSENT:	Mike Cowell	Port Stephens Koalas
	Peter Gessling	Hunter Business Chamber

\*Attended via video-conferencing.

**The CDG meeting was opened at 10.09am.**

**Acknowledgement of Country** – LA delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

<b>WELCOME</b>	LA welcomed all attendees to the AGL Newcastle Gas Storage Facility Community Dialogue Group (CDG) and recognised those joining online and to assist asked all attendees to state their name and position on the CRG.	
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	As listed above.	
<b>DECLARATIONS</b>	LA advised that she is an Independent Chairperson, approved by the Department of Planning engaged by AGL to chair this CDG.	<b>No changes to members' previous declarations.</b>
<b>BUSINESS ARISING</b>	The minutes from the previous meeting held on 26 February 2025 were finalised and sent to members on 12	


	<p>March 2025. There were two 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>Site inspection to be arranged for Q2 meeting .</td><td>LA</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>Contact between ecologist &amp; Ken Page to arrange site inspection with Gardens' Orchid Team to visit Medowie.</td><td>JM/K</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>No other business arising.</p>	ITEM	ISSUE	BY WHOM	1	Site inspection to be arranged for Q2 meeting .	LA	2	Contact between ecologist & Ken Page to arrange site inspection with Gardens' Orchid Team to visit Medowie.	JM/K	<p><b>1. Complete. Will be conducted after this CDG.</b>  <b>2. Hold over as JM an apology today.</b></p>
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<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26/2/25 – Nomination forms received from Leigh Ridgeway.</li> <li>4/3/25 – Email to members with the draft minutes for review.</li> <li>12/3/25 - Email to members with the finalised minutes &amp; presentation.</li> <li>3/4/25 – Email to members with latest community update from T4NSW regarding M1 extension.</li> <li>17/4/25 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda &amp; Correspondence Report for this meeting. <i>(Note: change of date.)</i></li> <li>30/5/25 – Email to members with reminder for this meeting &amp; the site access mud map.</li> </ul>	<p><b>As provided with meeting notice – emailed 17/4/25.</b></p>									
<b>NEWCASTLE GAS STORAGE FACILITY GENERAL</b>	<p>It was acknowledged that this is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NGSF being operational.</p> <p>KM provided the NGSF Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No major incident, MTIs or LTIs</li> <li>Tank is full; 1.4 PJ</li> <li>Critical maintenance commenced</li> <li>Awaiting cooler weather to inject gas back to the grid.</li> </ul> <p>Discussions on the energy contained within the tank and how it is inspected by Safework NSW. Whilst classed as hazardous, it doesn't explode like a bomb and inspectors have praised the company of its compliance with safety requirements.</p> <p><b>NGSF – Since 2015</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No LTI or Serious Injury in 10 years Open and welcome, apologies, declarations, previous minutes, business a rising and correspondence</li> <li>One MTI – offsite in 2017</li> <li>License to operate from SafeWork NSW</li> <li>No major PINs and notices from the regulators</li> <li>No breach of licenses</li> <li>Recognized by AWU for handling COVID while keeping the plant operational</li> <li>More than 100 local contractors</li> <li>Total LNG Liquefied: 10,770 TJ</li> <li>Total gas to Jemena HP network: 7,950 TJ</li> <li>Total gas to TAC: 5,300 TJ</li> <li>Total gas to local LP network: 4,179 TJ</li> </ul>	<p><b>Slide 4</b></p>									

<b>HOSTING JOINT CHEMICAL ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	KM provided a summary of the recent Joint Chemical Engineering Committee NSW site visit to NGSF. Giving thanks to the team for delivering an in-depth overview of the operations and demonstrating the importance placed on safety and care for the asset and its operation.	<b>Slide 6</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE</b>	<p>Environment update presented by AC:</p> <p>No environmental incidents or regulatory non-compliances during the reporting period</p> <p><b>Medowie Offsets Properties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lot 16 and Lot 20 Old Swan Bay Rd, Ferodale</li> <li>○ Each Lot is approximately 58 ha, under Conservation Agreement since 2016</li> <li>○ Contains a diverse array of wildlife including threatened species and ecological communities</li> <li>○ Supplementary native trees recently planted in Lot 20</li> <li>○ Recent rain has made parts of the property inaccessible, delaying scheduled track and fence maintenance</li> <li>○ NPWS has requested property access to assist with planned Hazard Reduction Burns in Autumn 2026</li> <li>○ Biodiversity Conservation Trust to inspect property next quarter.</li> </ul> <p>PLM enquired whether AGL is part of the Lower Hunter Bush Fire Management Committee. Advising that it has representatives from RFS, Crown Lands, Forestry, Ausgrid, etc. It's an excellent group for the exchange of information about controlling vegetation and sustainable burning.</p> <p>AC agreed that this is a good suggestion.</p> <p>RC commented that AGL is part of the Upper Hunter Bush Fire Management Committee.</p> <p><b>Environment- Upcoming priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EPL 20130 Annual Return Report</li> <li>○ FY25 Sustainability Report</li> <li>○ FY25 National Pollutant Inventory Report</li> <li>○ Annual review of Pollution Incident Response Management Plan</li> <li>○ 5 yearly air emissions stack testing of three boilers during gas send out</li> </ul> <p><b>Environment update – water monitoring</b> AO presented on:</p>	<p><b>Slide 7</b></p> <p><b>Slide 8</b></p> <p><b>Slide 9</b></p>

	<p>Groundwater and surface water sampling completed in accordance with the Operations Water Management Plan in March 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two exceedances of adopted threshold but results consistent with previous monitoring. See table in slide 9 for further information/results.</li> </ul> <p>Pending endorsement of change in frequency, next monitoring scheduled for March 2026.</p> <p>Recommendation to change frequency from 6 monthly to annual based on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>robust data (20 monitoring rounds with baseline, construction and operational monitoring data)</li> <li>no increase in risk of environmental harm</li> <li>low rate of change.</li> </ul>	
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	<p>JF provided an update on the community sponsorship during the past quarter, including:</p> <p>The Newcastle Show – KM operated the Bee exhibition, providing educational information and demonstrations.</p> <p>JF expanded on the NGSF's 10 year anniversary, stating that \$250,000.00 has been spent in the community through grant funding with support being provided to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hunter Region Botanic Gardens</li> <li>Native Animal Trust Fund</li> <li>Hunter Life Educations</li> <li>Tanilba bay &amp; District Senior Citizens</li> <li>Hunter Breast Cancer Foundation</li> <li>Nelsons Bay Croquet Club</li> <li>Tilligery Arts Group</li> <li>Tomaree Neighbourhood centre</li> <li>Irrawang Public School</li> <li>The Men's Shed</li> <li>Port Stephens Koalas</li> <li>The Newcastle Fringe Festival</li> <li>The Newcastle Show</li> <li>Wahroonga Aboriginal Corporation</li> <li>Seaside Singers Community Choir of Port Stephens</li> <li>Port Stephens Family &amp; Neighbourhood Services</li> <li>Bikers for Kids Toy Run</li> <li>Hunter Wildlife Rescue</li> <li>Caring for our Port Stephens Youth</li> <li>Soldiers Point Tennis Club</li> <li>Tomaree Museum Association</li> <li>Newcastle Toy Library</li> <li>Catholic Care Social Services</li> <li>Karuah Progress Association</li> <li>Tomaree Headland Heritage</li> <li>Jenny's Place for Domestic Violence Victims</li> <li>Opera Hunter</li> <li>Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service</li> <li>Survivor's R Us Incorporated</li> <li>Newcastle NPL T-20</li> </ul>	<b>Slides 10-14</b>

	<p>PLM commented that the community would be largely impressed with the contribution from AGL over the past 10 years.</p> <p>RC congratulated JF on elevating community engagement in the locale and facilitating the contributions.</p>	
<b>AGL UPDATE</b>	<p>RC provided the AGL Update commencing with the higher level strategy.</p> <p><b>Priorities for FY 2025:</b></p> <p><b>Customers</b> Helping customers decarbonise the way they live, move and work while transforming our retail business.</p> <p><b>Portfolio</b> Developing its renewable and firming capacity pipeline, including repurposing our existing thermal sites into energy hubs</p> <p><b>Business</b> Running the business exceptionally well, while maintaining a strong focus on health, environment and safety.</p> <p>There are 4M customers across the country to assist them in electrifying and decarbonising home and work life.</p> <p>AGL are closing fossil fuel/coal assets and replacing them with renewable energy projects. They are looking at repurposing power stations with the number one priority being safety &amp; environmental protection with strict management processes.</p> <p>AGL's current portfolio prioritises deployment of firming assets to meet immediate market needs, while also building renewable options</p> <p>AGL is focused on progressing firming assets in the Hunter region due to its favourable geographic characteristics.</p> <p>AGL is pursuing a range of firming options, as no single asset class can meet all market needs A combination of firming assets will be required to support the energy transition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Batteries provide wide ranging services and can be deployed quickly but are commercially limited to 4 hours storage duration ✓ Long 50+ years Footprint</li> <li>• Gas generation provides unlimited firming capacity with sufficient fuel supply but requires a medium lead time to reach commercial operations</li> </ul>	<b>Slides 15 – 21</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gas generation also produces emissions, which must be offset</li> <li>Pumped hydro can provide long duration storage but requires a significant lead time to reach commercial operations</li> <li>The long asset life and large footprint also present challenges for investors, approvers and local stakeholders</li> </ul> <p>RC described the recent New Energy Conference in Melbourne with a guest speaker/presenter from AGL.</p> <p>500 MW Liddell Battery on track for early 2026 . 250 MW expected to be operational in early 2026; remaining 250 MW expected by April 2026</p>	
<b>TOMAGO BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM</b> 500MW/2000MWh (4 hours duration)	<p>AH commenced the presentation on the Tomago BESS, confirming that development consent was received in November 2024. Secondary approvals are required, so they have been working through those.</p> <p>Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>132kv Transmission Line Route selected.</li> <li>AGL received approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to enable staging of the Fire Safety Study (FSS) under Condition B28 so that approval of the final FSS for the battery components is not required until the components, are due to be installed and energised.</li> <li>to update the species credit requirements based on additional surveys under Condition B11</li> </ul> </li> <li>AGL and Port Stephens Council to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement to be advertised 10/7 6/8 and executed by Council 10/9</li> <li>Management Plans being prepared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity Management Plan (Condition B13) - Site visit scheduled with Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation (formerly BCS)</li> <li>Cultural Heritage Management Plan – 28 day exhibition closed 10/5. Consultation with Heritage NSW and Aboriginal stakeholders</li> <li>Environmental Management Strategy to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary</li> <li>Soil and Water Management Plan in consultation with the Water Group</li> <li>Other Management plans to be prepared by Construction contractor, including FSS, emergency management plan and traffic management plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Slide 22 – 24</b>

	<p>CS advised that the target is to commence construction by the end of this year; finalise the project in a couple of years and then commission.</p> <p>PLM enquired how far afield that this energy would better help people. CS advised that 200 homes will be powered with energy going back into the grid, basically half the Hunter.</p> <p>JMc commented that the batteries will not be operating all the time, usually morning and evening when peak usage is required.</p> <p>LR asked if consultation was occurring with aboriginal stakeholders. This was confirmed that AGL is working with Worimi and other registered parties. <b>ACTION: AH to send through details.</b></p>	
<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b>	<p>LR mentioned that JF's community presentation didn't include the Deadly Awards, which AGL has been a great sponsor of. Commenting that AGL are strong leaders in the community, partnering through their project sponsorship and helping the growth of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.</p> <p>PLM advised that the Mayor usually sits on this CDG, however, he would be happy to receive information as well. <b>ACTION: Place PLM on distribution list to receive emails moving forward.</b></p> <p>PLM advised members of the announcement at Newcastle Airport that it will be commencing routes to Bali &amp; Perth.</p> <p>KM asked BH about the traffic arrangements coming on to Old Punt Road from the Pacific Highway. BH provided details of the temporary partial closure commencing late July. This will be in place for approximately 6-9 months.</p> <p>KM asked if emergency services have been advised. BH presumed so, however, took on notice to follow up. BH confirmed that consultation had occurred with residents and business owners that will be impacted.</p> <p>JF thanked CDG members for their involvement over the past 10 years on the NGSF committee.</p>	
<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	 <b>Wednesday 27 August 2025</b> on site at Hunter Region Botanic Gardens, commencing at 10am	<b>Agreed.</b>

***Meeting closed at 11.17am with LA thanking members for their attendance and inviting members to stay for the site tour. PPE was supplied and an inspection of the asset was undertaken.***

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>ISSUE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
1	Send through Cultural Heritage consultation information	AH
2	Add PLM to distribution list. Complete	LA