

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

Future U Hub, Bayswater Power Station

Time

10:00am – 12:00pm

Date

Thursday – 28th August 2025

Chair

Lisa Andrews (LA)

Attendees**AGL Representatives:** Len McLachlan, James Coventry, Polly Yuille, Andrew Speechly, Mel Cleary, Hannah Chandler (minute taker)**CCC Members:** Derek Finnigan, Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Cr Rod Scholes, Cr Sue Moore (Mayor), Stephen Thatcher & Jennifer Lecky**Apologies**

De-Anne Douglas, Dwight Graham, Cr Graeme McNeill, Ruth Rogers, Kevin Timpson, Ged Elphinstone, Mike Kelly, Rob Cooper & Jo Ferguson

Item **Discussion****01****Welcome, Introduction and Apologies – Chair**

- Meeting opened by Lisa Andrews at 10.04am, followed by the Acknowledgement of Country
- Apologies and no online attendees noted.

All discussion items were presented on PowerPoint with additional commentary to the slides listed in the below meeting notes.

02**Safety Share – James Coventry (JC)**

- JC provided the safety share focused on a new initiative to improve cable management during meetings and site activities at the Future U Hub. He highlighted the installation of floor-level power points to eliminate tripping hazards from loose cables during meetings, which was recognised during a recent GM meeting and identified as a potential hazard.

03**Declarations of Interest**

- LA declared being an independent chair approved by the Department of Planning and engaged by AGL to chair the meeting. No additional declarations of interest were noted.

04**Business Arising from previous meeting**

- The minutes of the previous CCC, held on 29 May 2025 were finalised on 22 July 2025.

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	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	Held over. When available. 28/8 Complete. With commitment to provide updates (eg: on Hunter Energy Hub or regional renewable projects) when available.
Send email to MSC GM seeking information on proposed laydown pad proposed by	Ged Elphinstone	Send email to MSC GM seeking information on proposed laydown pad proposed by	GE an apology today. Hold over. 28/8 - RS to follow up.

EnergyCo at Lake Liddell Recreation Area.		EnergyCo at Lake Liddell Recreation Area.	
Invitation to CCC members for Bayswater 40 th anniversary celebration	Polly Yuille	ASAP	28/8 Complete
Investigate purchase of safety glasses by non-local supplier	Len McLachlan	Next Meeting	28/8 – LM to follow up with Procurement Manager and provide update prior to November meeting

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Correspondence

- As issued with the meeting notice sent on 13th August 2025.

06

AGL and Bayswater Update – Len McLachlan (LM)

- LM provided an update on the AGL full year results, stating that AGL had a good year, though market expectations were higher; safety metrics improved, with a TRIFR of 2 incidents per million hours worked, meeting targets. Customer services grew to 4.6 million, and a \$90 million customer support package was delivered. EBITDA of \$2,010 million, with an underlying net profit after tax of \$640 million; dividends totalled \$0.48 per share. Share price dropped despite meeting guidance.
- AGL has tripled its development pipeline since 2022, focusing on battery projects and renewables, and highlighted the release of the second Climate Transition Action Plan, which increases the firming target to 6 GW by 2030 and outlines progress on renewables, grid-scale batteries, and decentralised energy initiatives.
- Final investment decision for the Tomago Battery, which will be a 500 MW, four-hour grid-scale battery. Battery costs have almost halved in the past two years, making these projects more economically viable. Increased battery deployment is flattening the "duck curve" by charging during midday solar peaks and discharging in the evening, reducing demand spikes and price volatility.
- Major Bayswater Outage schedule for commencement on September 12th 2025, this is estimated to last for 85 days, with 420k work hours and an investment of \$130 million. The workforce is approx. 1000 contractors, which will provide significant community impact due to increased local activity. The outage includes both maintenance and improvements, such as a nitrogen oxide emissions reduction program to meet new EPA guidelines, with one unit being upgraded per year. As the plant nears closure, future outages will be smaller in scale and cost, focusing on compliance and essential reliability. A Minor outage will be conducted on Unit 3 concurrently (10-14 days).
- The closure date for Bayswater has been clarified and updated to 2033, rather than the previous range of 2030–2033. In preparation for this, the AGL Transition team have commenced one-on-one conversations with Bayswater employees about future job options, retraining, and potential career changes, even though closure is still 8 years away.
- The NZEA has been established to support energy job transitions but currently excludes broader coal and export-focused roles, prompting concern and advocacy from local representatives; AGL will continue working locally with NZEA in their efforts to align stakeholders and benefit affected communities.
- LM provided an update on Markus Brokhof's retirement, with the role split into two: Matthew Currie as Chief Operations and Construction Officer, and David Moretto as Chief Commercial Officer.
- The Bayswater 40th anniversary celebration was held and described as a fantastic event with great music, news coverage, strong employee participation and positive feedback. An artwork was unveiled at the event, using materials from the plant and created by a local artist Fran Wachtel who had also completed a Liddell artwork. Both artworks currently reside in the Future U Hub on display.

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Bayswater Environment – Andrew Speechly (AS)

- Six incidents were reported to the NSW EPA, mostly minor or administrative, with only one significant pollution event (ash spill) previously discussed.
- Ten non-compliances were reported in the FY25 annual compliance return required under our EPL, mainly administrative or minor water licence excesses.
- A new dust curtain was installed at the Bayswater ash dam to reduce dust risk, especially during the hotter, windier months ahead..
- Improvement Project of weed remediation is ongoing along the Hunter River, targeting invasive plants, with replanting to restore endangered ecological communities.
- Three community complaints were received for FY25, all anonymous via the EPA. Investigations found no plant conditions linked to the complaints. No complaints have been received since October 2024.

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Liddell Transition – James Coventry (JC)

- JC provided a detailed recap on his recent trip to the UK, with Site Transition General Manager Brad Williams that entailed observing the demolition of 8 cooling towers, and further site visits to Drax Power Station, West Burton and Cottam. The trip was with Brown and Mason, who AGL has engaged as its demolition SME for Liddell, provided valuable insights into best practice reclamation, explosive demolition, and community management, helping inform Liddell's transition planning and safety processes. A video of a major UK cooling tower demolition (8 cooling towers) was shown to illustrate best practices and the scale of such projects, mentioning it also made the Guiness Book of Records. Questions were asked about transition support in the UK, biomass supply chain costs, and ash reuse regulations during the UK trip discussion, to which JC provided answers by explaining the role of EDF Energy (UK power company) and differences in the UK market.
- All management plans for the demolition of Liddell received regulatory approval in July, this now supports the commencement of full site demolition.
- The Liddell site is preparing for demolition, including hazardous material removal, building a new containment cell for asbestos, repowering lifts and cranes - but no major blast is planned this calendar year. However, the social club demolition has been completed with images shared in the slides.
- AGL and Delta have endorsed a 24month program with Wonnarua Mining Rehabilitation (WMR) as a part of AGL's Reconciliation Action Plan. This will see a total of 6 trainees employed on a 12-month traineeship with on-the-job training, starting with traffic management and progressing to civil earthworks skills, including operating machinery up to excavator level. Upon completion of the program, each trainee will earn RTO qualifications, with the aim of supporting WMR's business growth.

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Liddell Battery – Polly Yuille (on behalf of Chirag Kakadiya)

- All foundations for batteries and transformers for the project are now in place, and images were shared to highlight the progress.
- New 330kV Transmission line construction has been completed.
- Steve Fordham, the founder and Managing Director of Blackrock Industries received the Clean Energy Council's award for equity, inclusion, and diversity for his Second Chance for Change programme, which provides employment opportunities for inmates on the battery project and supports their continued employment after release.

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Hunter Energy Hub - Len McLachlan

- The structure of the Energy Hub team has changed, with some staff departures, however the project remains a critical part of AGL's business and is moving toward foundational development and infrastructure planning.
- LM explained that the Hunter Energy Hub is progressing, though at a slower pace than initially forecast, with more detailed planning now underway and a focus on actual development of a master plan.
- Renewable Metals were successful in securing NSW State Government funding to support their feasibility study to establish a lithium battery recycling facility at the Hunter Energy Hub.

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Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (MPHES) – Mel Cleary

Project Status:

- Geotech investigation in mine pit has been completed.
- EPBC Referral Requests For Information are complete, and will be lodged.
- EIS draft technical studies being reviewed.
- Legal review of EIS commenced.
- Project invited to present to Department of Planning (DPCI)'s Energy & Industry Committee.

Stakeholder and Community Engagement update:

- Muswellbrook Shire Council renewable energy projects community info session held 21st July at McCullys Gap. The team held discussions around the Council-led community information session, managed very effectively by the Mayor of Muswellbrook. The McCullys Gap community was praised for the strong turnout and constructive atmosphere. The session was described as a successful engagement with local residents and project proponents about renewable energy developments.
- VPA draft terms of agreement presented to Muswellbrook Shire Council's State Significant Development Committee in August.
- Community drop-in sessions postponed to align with schedule for environmental studies and reports.

Muswellbrook Battery Energy Storage System – Mel Cleary

Key Features:

- 150MW / 300MWh Lithium Battery (LFP).
- Development Approval granted July 2023.
- Located at 20-24 Sandy Creek Rd, Muswellbrook - adjacent to existing Ausgrid Muswellbrook substation.
- 20+ year asset life.
- Progressing through AGL's project pipeline and if developed would have 60 Peak construction jobs and 2-3 ongoing roles.
- Energisation expected mid-2027.

Project Status and Stakeholder & Community Engagement:

- Development progressing to contractor negotiations in advance of a construction target of Q1 2026.
- Planning modification covering vehicle sizing, cultural heritage mapping and other matters to be lodged to Department of Planning by end of August.
- Neighbour/sensitive receiver door knocking in Northview Muswellbrook area and letterboxing 5th August.
- A planning modification is being prepared and is under legal review.
- Webpage live on AGL website and updated to include details of development modification application and EOI invitation to local and First Nations owned businesses wishing to register their interest in opportunities during construction.

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AGL in the Community – Polly Yuille (PY) [on behalf of Jo Ferguson (JF)]

- PY presented a slide and discussed AGL's community strategy, informing that it is built around four key pillars – Education, Environment, Cost of living and First Nations - , AGL has signed long-term partnerships with organisations working to deliver sustained positive impact in all of these areas. A couple of examples given were:
 - The Dolly Parton Imagination Library that was launched at the Muswellbrook Library, providing one free book a month to children from ages 0-5 to improve literacy rates, with positive impacts noted for both children and parents.
 - AGL teams are also actively supporting Aussie Ark through tree planting and nest box preparation as part of their environmental partnership.
- RS raised and thanked AGL for its participation in the Science and Engineering Challenge, an event hosted by Rotary and attended by AGL each year. The event is highly valued for inspiring future generations, and mentioned he received positive feedback from both

participants and the University of Newcastle on the high quality of the AGL staff who attended.

- The Local Voices survey, conducted by Voconiq, has been launched to gather community feedback, using various channels like newspapers, Facebook, and in-person outreach. Results will help shape AGL's future investment and social support, and participants can direct a donation to local charities as an incentive for participating in the survey. The survey is open for about three weeks, and results will be shared with the group.
- PY provided a recap on the fundraising program mentioning that AGL's fundraising target is well on the way to being achieved. Led by JF and a volunteer committee, events are organised such as the raffles, 100 clubs and the Bayswater Ball that aim to raise \$100,000 for Upper Hunter Homeless Support and Singleton Neighbourhood Centre.
- Upcoming Events in the community in September include the Men and Their Mates breakfast on R U OK Day (11th September), the 9 for Nine walk in Aberdeen, a ball in Scone with Wally Lewis as guest speaker and a Father's Day gathering for families impacted by suicide.

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General Business and Future meeting items

- Nil General Business or future meeting items raised.
One remark that the meeting was fantastic, with agreement from others in the room.

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Next Meeting for 2025

- Thursday 27th November 2025, same location Future U Hub, Bayswater Power Station, commencing at 10am.

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Meeting Closed

- Meeting closed at 12.04pm – LA thanked all participants for their attendance.

Action Items

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	DU ^E BY	COMMENTS
Send email to MSC GM seeking information on proposed laydown pad proposed by EnergyCo at Lake Liddell Recreation Area.	Ged Elphinstone	Send email to MSC GM seeking information on proposed laydown pad proposed by EnergyCo at Lake Liddell Recreation Area.	GE an apology today. Hold over. 28/8 - RS to follow up
Investigate purchase of safety glasses by non-local supplier.	Len McLachlan	Next Meeting	28/8 – LM to follow up with Procurement Manager and provide update prior to November meeting
Send link for the Local Voices community survey. Results to be provided in future meeting.	Polly Yuille	Next Meeting	Complete – sent 30/8/25.