



Meeting

AGL Bayswater - Community Consultative Committee

Venue

Future U Hub, Bayswater Power Station

Time

10:00am – 12:00pm

Date

11 June 2026

Chair

Lisa Andrews

Attendees

AGL Representatives: James Coventry, Polly Yuille, Andrew Speechly, Jo Ferguson, Jane Callinan, Hannah Chandler (scribe)

CCC Members: De-Anne Douglas (online), Stephen Thatcher, Jan Fallding (Muswellbrook Shire Council), Mike Kelly

Apologies

Dwight Graham, Cr Graeme O'McNeill, Kevin Timpson, Derek Finnigan, Cr Rod Scholes, Cr Sue Moore (Mayor Singleton Shire Council), Jennifer Lecky

Item

Discussion

01

Welcome, Introduction and Apologies – Chair

- Meeting opened by Lisa Andrews at 10:07am, followed by the Acknowledgement of Country conducted by De-Anne Douglas.
- LA welcomed the attendees to the Quarter 2 meeting.
- Apologies noted, and recognition of online attendees for the meeting. Formal apologies were provided from Cr Graeme O'McNeill, Kevin Timpson, Cr Sue Moore, Dwight Graham, Mel Cleary, Len McLachlan, Rob Cooper, Chirag Kakadiya

PY advised that the meeting was being recorded for the purposed of the minutes. No objections.

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

02

Safety Share – Polly Yuille

- Polly presented on a safety innovation being trialled at site. The Introduction of bone conduction communication technology trial, which:
 - Enables communication in high-risk environments while maintaining situational awareness.
 - Demonstrates AGL's focus on innovation in safety improvements.
- The discussion point leant into the ongoing challenge in high-risk environments of maintaining both effective communication and situational awareness.

03

Declarations of Interest

- Chair declared being an Independent Chair approved by the Department of Planning and engaged by AGL to chair the meeting. Reminder was provided to members to update declarations if required. No additional declarations of interest were noted.

04

Business Arising from previous meeting

- The minutes of the previous CCC, held on 26 February 2026 were finalised on 20 March 2026 and sent to members. There were 2 actions items from that meeting.

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	DUE BY	COMMENTS
Organise visit to WLALC for 1 st Year Apprentices	De-Anne Douglas	Next Meeting	<i>Hold over</i>
Share Local Voices summary document with CCC members	Polly Yuille	Next Meeting	Complete. Sent 30/8/25.

05

Correspondence

- 12/3/26 - Email to members with the draft minutes for review.
- 20/3/26 - Email to members with the finalised minutes & presentation.
- 22/4/26 – Email to members advising of change in date for Q2 CCC to 11/6/26.
- 11/5/26 – Email to members advising of Liddell Power Station Chimney Stack Demolition Update
- 5/6/26 - Email to members with Meeting Notice & Agenda for this CCC & request for RSVPs.

06

AGL and Bayswater Update – Andrew Speechly (on behalf of Len McLachlan)

Operational Performance (Bayswater)

- Andrew discussed the achievement of the high availability performance being particularly notable given the age of the generating asset. Achieved 99.9% availability (well above 83% annual target).
- AGL advised the official ‘sod turn’ for the Kwinana 2 220 MW gas peaking project in Western Australia had recently occurred, noting its role in supporting energy transition by providing firming capacity alongside increasing renewable generation.

Flexible Operations & Transition Readiness

- Trials are underway to improve operational flexibility:
 - Minimum load operation
 - Temporary shutdown and rapid re-synchronisation
- These trials support increasing renewable energy integration, and there has been international interest in AGL’s operational flexibility trials, particularly regarding coal unit start/stop capability in a transitioning energy system.

Workforce Transition

- Ongoing employee engagement (surveys + workshops) are taking place. Mixed sentiment has been observed throughout 1 on 1 conversations that have been taking place (ranging from confidence to concern).
- AGL confirmed its approach of early and ongoing engagement, including follow-up engagement sessions to track sentiment changes over time, and to support post-closure workforce pathways.

Workforce Capability & Apprenticeships

- AGL advised strong interest with 609 applications received for the 2027 Apprenticeship intake, 20% of these applicants were female, and 23% identified as Indigenous applicants (three of these being students from local Clontarf Foundation academies).

Innovation & Sustainability (Plashett Pumped Mini Hydro Project)

- AGL shared a short video on the Plashett Mini Pumped Hydro Project. The discussion outlined the recommissioning of the mini hydro system, generating 3,500 MWh annually to offset internal energy use (which utilises existing water infrastructure).

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- A question was raised during the presentation of the video regarding the size compared to other hydro projects. It was noted that it is tiny relative to projects under investigation at St Clair and Lake Glenbawn. The system is very small but is a valuable site energy and resource efficiency initiative.
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07

Bayswater Environment – Andrew Speechly

- Andrew provided a recap of the Bayswater environment performance, mentioning the environmental impact associated with recent incidents was minimal to negligible. AGL reaffirmed its commitment to comply with all regulatory and reporting obligations, regardless of impact level. The EPA response was noted as advisory in nature, consistent with the low severity of the incidents.
 - The incident on the 8th April, regarding salinity exceedance was caused by failure of a recently replaced breather valve. Cause was identified as a manufacturing defect, with the issue identified rapidly via monitoring and corrective actions implemented.
 - AGL discussed the Audit of SSD 8889679 (Liddell Battery and Bayswater Ancillary Works) and confirmed works are progressing under state significant development approvals in the construction phase, with biannual compliance audits undertaken (137 conditions assessed), noting minor administrative non-compliances and inclusion of reportable incidents for the audit period.
 - Two anonymous complaints relating to air quality were received via the EPA, with no abnormal operating conditions identified; it was queried whether AGL's complaints process is easily accessible to the community, with AGL confirming it is available online but noting limited ability to investigate when complaints are not made directly to the company.
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08

Liddell Transition – James Coventry

- James shared two videos of demolition preparation for the stacks, one video of the stack blast, and a photo post blast. He then discussed the demolition activities in more detail as outlined in the following dot points:
 - AGL outlined the demolition of the Liddell stacks as a complex, multi-year project (approximately 4–5 years of planning), requiring significant coordination with regulators including NSW Police, EPA, SafeWork and Transport for NSW.
 - A narrow weather window was identified on the day, with the blast proceeding following early morning monitoring and a final "go/no-go" decision based on dust dispersion modelling.
 - AGL confirmed approximately 91 personnel were involved across the demolition works, including specialist contractor CMA, with activities spanning asbestos removal, waste management and structural deconstruction.
 - Questions were raised regarding the removal and management of materials (e.g. fabric filters/dust systems), with AGL noting a strong focus on environmental controls, waste segregation and tracking.
 - AGL highlighted that contaminated materials, including asbestos, were managed in accordance with requirements, while maximising recycling of steel and other materials.
 - AGL advised that clean-up activities were progressing well, with dedicated equipment onsite and an expected completion timeframe of approximately two weeks post-blast.
 - Further demolition works are planned, with the next major blast anticipated in November (subject to conditions) or potentially early next year.
 - In response to questions regarding the interaction of the two stacks, AGL confirmed blasts were staged seconds apart to ensure a controlled fall within a defined radius.
 - AGL advised that edited footage of the blast would be made publicly available in due course.
 - Safety measures implemented included controlled exclusion zones, use of sentries and Marine Police, and incident management processes (including removal of a trespasser prior to the blast).
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- Lessons learned from the activity included improving communications systems due to radio interference, reducing highway closure duration, and minor logistical improvements such as amenities access for site teams.
 - AGL noted strong community interest in the demolition event, with significant attendance at Muswellbrook RSL live site, over 35,000 livestream views, and high engagement from former employees via social media, reflecting strong community connection to the Liddell site.
 - A query was raised regarding the collection of Liddell materials within local libraries; AGL advised a proposal has been submitted by Muswellbrook Shire Council Library to the Head of Transition for review, with outcomes subject to funding and further discussions on feasibility and accessibility.
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09

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

- Polly advised the official commissioning event of the Liddell Battery was held in mid-March with attendance from government and local stakeholders, including Federal Assistant Minister for Climate Change & Energy, the Hon Josh Wilson, NSW Minister for Environment the Hon Penny Sharpe and Muswellbrook Mayor Jeff Drayton demonstrating progress of the Liddell battery and broader site transition.
 - It was also noted that two electrical trades' employees have transitioned into roles within the Battery team, providing a practical example of workforce redeployment during the energy transition.
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Hunter Energy Hub – Jane Callinan

- Jane discussed the joint Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program funding application (\$5M) with Muswellbrook Council was unsuccessful, noting successful projects were more aligned to tourism/regional activation rather than large-scale job creation. AGL continues active engagement with government to pursue future funding opportunities aligned to economic development outcomes.
 - Positive coverage of the Hunter Energy Hub was received across the news, in both the AFR (business section) and Hunter River Times during the same period, supporting increased awareness of future site opportunities and transition activities.
 - Jane acknowledged both the Singleton and Muswellbrook Council as being proactive and supportive, regularly referring external enquiries regarding industrial land and development opportunities to AGL.
 - Mike raised a question regarding the intent of "activation by 2030", with Jane confirming the objective is to achieve infrastructure readiness and "boots on the ground" development by that time. AGL further advised that a number of MOUs are in place for potential projects, noting these remain at feasibility stage with no active development applications for construction.
 - A query was raised regarding submissions to the recent NSW Data Centre Consultation Paper or the NSW Legislative Assembly inquiry into data centres, with AGL confirming a submissions had not been made.
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New Projects – Polly Yuille (on behalf of Mel Cleary)

- Polly presented on behalf of Mel and shared the slide updates on Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Energy Storage, Muswellbrook Battery Energy Storage System, Beresfield Battery Energy Storage System and Awaba Battery Energy Storage System.
 - Further to the slides presented, Polly shared that AGL participated in a Council-led renewable energy project consultation session held in McCully's Gap, noting the session was well attended and provided a valuable opportunity to engage with the community and respond to questions.
 - Polly provided the update that Muswellbrook Battery has received federal environmental approval (EPBC), with a final investment decision yet to be made, noting the project is relatively small in scale and could be delivered quickly with potential energisation as early
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as mid-2027. However, advised there is no change to the Beresfield or Awaba battery projects.

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AGL in the Community – Jo Ferguson

- Jo advised the next funding round will occur in September via the AGL website, with recipients determined through a sponsorship committee process; in response to a query, it was noted that payroll giving recipients are employee-selected and matched by AGL.
- Employee giving was highlighted, explaining that the employee payroll giving contributions of approximately \$38k were matched by AGL to deliver \$76k to community organisations. In response to a query, it was noted the current platform has operated for several years, with earlier versions in place historically, with ongoing focus on increasing employee participation.

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General Business and Future meeting items

- De-Anne discussed that AGL is supporting a community driving program through donation of an electric vehicle, aimed at improving licence access across Muswellbrook and surrounding towns, with planning underway for charging infrastructure.
- Mike provided a Muswellbrook Chamber update on current activities that included:
 - Ongoing networking events and monthly business breakfasts, including 'Going Country' to be held at the Muswellbrook Showground on 7 October, with sponsorship support welcomed, including acknowledgement of AGL's involvement as a sponsor.
 - Strong participation in business awards, which will be held at Two Rivers on the 19 June 2026.
 - Continued confidence within the small business community
 - Challenges in connecting students with apprenticeships and career pathways, further noting that engagement with schools remains challenging due to competing curriculum demands, with ongoing efforts to improve links between education and industry opportunities.
- Jan raised the whole of site master plan – from a planning perspective that Council is awaiting the next iteration of the whole-of-site master plan from AGL, with further progress and investment considerations dependent on this update.
- Stephen raised concerns regarding tree clearing associated with the Hunter REZ Ausgrid substation development at Lake Liddell, including impacts to the Landcare group and limited consultation; it was noted Ausgrid is the proponent and undertook consultation with the Wonnarua Local Aboriginal Land Council prior to Crown Land processes, after which the land was transferred/sold; De-Anne suggested to further engage with Crown Lands and relevant representatives, including raising the matter with the local MPs.
- Nil general business raised or discussed from AGL Team

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Next Meeting

- Thursday 27th August 2026, Future U Hub, Bayswater Power Station, commencing 10am.

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Meeting Closed

- Meeting closed at 11:40am – LA thanked all participants for their attendance.

Action Items

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	DUE BY	COMMENTS
Organise visit to WLALC for 1 st Year Apprentices	De-Anne Douglas	Next Meeting	Held over - deferred from previous CCC due to workload constraints