



Meeting	AGL Hunter/Bayswater - Community Consultative Committee
Venue	Future U Hub, Bayswater Power Station
Time	10:00am – 12:00pm
Date	27 August 2026
Chair	Lisa Andrews
Attendees	AGL Representatives: Polly Yuille, Andrew Speechly, Jane Callinan, Leisha Williams & Mel Cleary CCC Members: De-Anne Douglas, Cr Graeme McNeill (online), Laurie Perry (online), Jan Fallding, Dwight Graham, Mathew Pringle (online), Kate Woodhouse (online) Mike Kelly and Jennifer Lecky
Observer	Ken Thornton
Apologies	Cr Sue Moore, Stephen Thatcher, Nicole Rindal, Kevin Timpson, Derek Finnigan, Cr Maurice Collison, Len McLachlan, Chirag Kakadiya, James Coventry, Jo Ferguson and Rob Cooper

Item	Discussion
01	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies – Chair • Meeting opened by Lisa Andrews at 10:05am, followed by an Acknowledgement of Country. • The Chair welcomed members to the Quarter 3 meeting and noted attendees joining online. • Apologies were tabled. The Committee acknowledged Derek Finnigan’s service to Muswellbrook Shire following advice of his resignation as General Manager. Shaelee Richards is the Acting General Manager.
02	Safety Share – Leisha Williams • AGL outlined the recent emergency response training and successful mock incident exercise at site. • Planning is underway for an evacuation exercise during the Unit 3 major outage, when the onsite workforce will approximately double. • Contractor pre-qualification, induction and site-specific training were highlighted as key controls for safely managing the outage workforce.
03	Declarations of Interest • The Chair confirmed her standing declaration as the independent Chair approved by the Department of Planning and engaged by AGL. • No additional declarations of interest were recorded.
04	Business Arising from Previous Meeting • The outstanding action to organise a visit to the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council for first-year apprentices remains open and will be progressed by De-Anne Douglas and Polly Yuille. • The minutes of the previous CCC meeting held on 11 June 2026 were noted.
05	Correspondence • The Correspondence Report was issued with the meeting notice on 10 August 2026. • No other correspondence was recorded.
06	AGL and Bayswater Update – Leisha Williams on behalf of Len McLachlan • Bayswater delivered a strong FY26 operational result, including commercial availability of 86.8% and periods of record availability. • Unplanned outages and derates improved against target, supporting reliable generation through a period of growing electricity demand. • The Unit 3 major outage due to commence on Friday 11 September was outlined, including the scale of planned maintenance, statutory work and contractor mobilisation.

Item	Discussion
	- AGL noted the maintenance outage will bring a significant temporary workforce to the region, supporting local accommodation and spending, while requiring strong safety and logistics planning. - The Committee discussed the changing role and frequency of major outages as Bayswater approaches its planned closure by the end of 2033. - Questions from Dr Ken Thornton about the “duck” curve and demand for electricity now that batteries are coming on board. LW advised that AGL has been focused on investment in flexible operations and ongoing 2-shift trials. - Further question on the ability to provide reliable power based only on renewables when Bayswater closes. AGL confirmed its commitment for closure by the end of 2033 and pointed to the development pipeline that includes a mix of generation, firming and storage.
07	Bayswater Environment – Andrew Speechly - One reportable environmental incident occurred in the financial year to date, involving an ash pipeline issue. The unit was shut down promptly, the material was contained while clean-up and repairs were completed. - AGL reported a low overall number of environmental incidents with continued monitoring and regulatory reporting. - The Committee discussed recent community complaints and the importance of providing sufficient detail to support investigation. - An update was provided on compliance, audit and traffic matters associated with site activities.
08	Liddell Transition – Polly Yuille - Demolition and site remediation activities continue following the successful stack demolition in May. - Further major demolition works are being planned, with timing subject to site conditions and the demolition program. Future activities are expected to be managed as “business-as-usual” events rather than public viewing events. - AGL will continue to provide communications and demolition imagery as appropriate. - The Committee discussed the proposed relocation of a Liddell turbine component to Muswellbrook Shire Council’s works depot. Council and the demolition team will follow up arrangements, including a suitable protective enclosure.
09	Liddell Battery – Polly Yuille - The Liddell Battery is completing final testing – the Committee will be notified when operational. - The project was recognised as a significant milestone and the first demonstration of the Liddell site’s transition into the Hunter Energy Hub. - AGL advised that the project’s social impact commitments have been achieved.
10	Hunter Energy Hub – Jane Callinan - An update was provided on planning, government engagement and the whole-of-site master planning process. - AGL continues to engage with government, Councils and prospective proponents to support future industrial development and investment at the site. - The Committee discussed infrastructure readiness, industrial land policy, data centre applications currently before the Department generally and the sequencing of planning/development opportunities.
11	New Projects – Mel Cleary & Kate Woodhouse - Updates were provided on the Muswellbrook Battery Energy Storage System, Beresfield Battery Energy Storage System, Awaba Battery Energy Storage System and Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Energy Storage projects. - The Awaba Battery has received federal environmental approval (EPBC). - Community consultation for Glenbawn Pumped Hydro Energy Storage is being planned, with community information sessions scheduled 22-23 September. Early engagement is intended to identify local considerations before field activities progress and to inform the Scoping Report for the Project. - AGL continues government and stakeholder engagement across the Hunter project portfolio.
12	AGL in the Community – Polly Yuille AGL highlighted partnerships supporting education, wellbeing and pathways for young people, including the Big Picture Program, Where There’s a Will and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiatives.

Item	Discussion
	• Site visits, employee volunteering and fundraising continue to connect the community with Bayswater, Liddell and the region's transition activities. • The next round of community funding applications opens in September via the AGL website, with local organisations encouraged to apply. • The Committee heard an update on the Licence to Drive program, supported by an AGL-donated electric vehicle, to help young people overcome barriers in obtaining a drivers licence. • AGL also noted recent visits by government, education, industry and community groups.
13	General Business and Future Meeting Items • Mike Kelly provided an update on Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce activities and upcoming local business events, including the Annual Business Awards - with a record number of entries, the Annual General Meeting with the full board mostly returned, breakfast networking, presentations to the Chamber from Upper Hunter Domestic Violence Support and MACH Energy/Mt Pleasant briefing. "Going Country", the Chamber's Country Music Festival will be held at the showground on 17/10/26 (tickets available via link below). PY advised that AGL is booked to present to the Chamber in November 2026. • Jan Fallding outlined changes recently introduced through the NSW Statewide Industrial Lands Policy and NSW State Land Use Plan, including updates to planning boundaries for future regional plans meaning that the 4 Upper Hunter region councils (Singleton, Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter and Dungog) will be separated from the Lower Hunter and no longer be part of the future Hunter & Central Coast Regional Plan. The implications for councils, future employment land and industrial development opportunities in the region were discussed. • De-anne Douglas provided an update on the three offenders charged with the break-in at the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council office. Updates were also provided on upcoming local programs and events, including the Keeping Place (construction), Forever Loved Family Fun Day, Blackroo's upcoming events; Men & Their Mates (guest speaker The Unbreakable Farmer), Father's Day Family Day in recognition of suicide awareness, RU Okay? campaign, Legends and Love Ones (Two Rivers, Denman), Denman Golf Day, Wally Lewis's attendance as ambassador for mental health awareness. (See links below for more information about these events.) • De-anne also provided information on an issue raised by Stephen Thatcher at the last meeting regarding concerns about tree removal at the Lake Liddell Recreation Area for the Hunter REZ project. Recently there were 1000 trees planted by community, including Stephen and construction contractors, rehabilitating the area. The trees will continue to be watered and looked after. • Following a request by Laurie Perry concerning AGL's Reconciliation Action Plan, an update will be included as an agenda item for the next meeting. • AGL advised that a further workforce sentiment and transition update can be provided when the next phase of work is finalised.
14	Next Meeting • Thursday 26 November 2026 at the Future U Hub, Bayswater Power Station, commencing at 10:00am.
15	Meeting Closed • Meeting closed at 11:48am. The Chair thanked all participants for their attendance and contribution.

Action Items

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	DUE BY	COMMENTS
Organise visit to WLALC for first-year apprentices	De-Anne Douglas / Polly Yuille	Next meeting	Held over from previous meeting.
Progress arrangements to relocate the Liddell turbine component to the Muswellbrook Shire Council works depot	Cr Graeme McNeill / AGL demolition team	Next meeting	Confirm collection, transport and protective enclosure arrangements.
Include AGL's RAP and progress on the next meeting agenda	Polly Yuille	Next meeting	To be addressed as a formal agenda item.

Links to items discussed in the meeting:

Where there's a Will - [Mental Health and Wellbeing | Where There's A Will | Upper Hunter](#)

Going Country: Event by Muswellbrook Business Chamber, tickets available via: [Going Country Tickets, Saturday 17 October 3 PM - 10 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Jared's Walk – Every Step Matta's: [What's On : Muswellbrook Shire Council](#)

Men and Their Mates: [What's On : Muswellbrook Shire Council](#)

Forever Loved Family Fun Day: [What's On : Muswellbrook Shire Council](#)

Denman Golf Day (with Wally Lewis): [What's On : Muswellbrook Shire Council](#)

Legends and Loved Ones at Two Rivers, Denman: [What's On : Muswellbrook Shire Council](#)