

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>AGL Hunter/Bayswater - Community Consultative Committee</b>
<b>Venue</b>	Future U Hub, Bayswater Power Station
<b>Time</b>	10:00am – 12:00pm
<b>Date</b>	26 February 2026
<b>Independent Chair</b>	Lisa Andrews
<b>Attendees</b>	<p><b>AGL Representatives:</b> Leisha Williams, James Coventry, Polly Yuille, Andrew Speechly, Mel Cleary, Rob Cooper, Anthony Flintham, Chirag Kakadiya (online) and Jane Callinan (<i>online</i>)</p> <p><b>CCC Members:</b> Cr Rod Scholes (Muswellbrook Shire Council), Cr Sue Moore (Mayor Singleton Shire Council), Stephen Thatcher, Jennifer Lecky, Dwight Graham (Singleton Shire Council), Jan Fallding (Muswellbrook Shire Council), De-Anne Douglas (Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council), Cr Graeme McNeill (Muswellbrook Shire Council- online)</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	Laurie Perry, Sharon Pope, Cr Maurice Collison, Matthew Pringle, Ruth Rogers, Kevin Timpson, Ged Elphinstone, Mike Kelly, Rob Cooper, Jo Ferguson

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>01</b>	<p><b>Welcome, Introduction and Apologies – Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting opened by Lisa Andrews at 10.03am, followed by the Acknowledgement of Country. Welcoming new representative from MSC, Jan Fallding, Principal Strategic Planner, who will be working on the master plan for the Liddell &amp; Bayswater sites.</li> <li>Apologies noted, and recognition of online attendees for the meeting</li> </ul> <p><i>All discussion items were presented on PowerPoint with additional commentary to the slides listed in the below meeting notes.</i></p>
<b>02</b>	<p><b>Safety Share – Cr Graeme McNeill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was a privilege to meet with the Minister Industrial Relations, Work Health &amp; Safety in Sydney with the SafeWork Committee.</li> <li>SafeWork NSW is shifting towards a more proactive engagement model, including outreach to Councils and communities.</li> <li>A particular focus is emerging on mental health, due to the increase in claims within the education sector.</li> <li>The Committee welcomed the emphasis on prevention and early intervention.</li> </ul>
<b>03</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair 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.</li> </ul>
<b>04</b>	<p><b>Business Arising from previous meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minutes of the previous CCC, held on 20 November 2025 were finalised on 23 December 2025.</li> </ul>

ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	DUE 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.	ST advised that EnergyCo are going ahead with the big camp. Cr Scholes advised that Council is fighting the proposal as temporary workers accommodation is prohibited under MSC's policy.
How many of the EOI registered businesses for Muswellbrook and Beresfield batteries are First Nations businesses.	MC	Complete – see comments.	Muswellbrook: 12/44 Beresfield: 11/42.
How many of the EOI registered businesses for Muswellbrook are local SMEs, as currently around 90% of businesses in Singleton have less than 20 employees.	MC	Complete – see comments.	Small (<20 employees) = 36/44 (82%) Medium enterprise (20-199) = 6/44 (13.5%) Large enterprise (>200) = 2 (4.5%).

## 05

### Correspondence

As issued with the meeting notice was sent out on the 5 February 2026:

- 15/12/25 - Email to members with the draft minutes for review.
- 23/12/25 - Email to members with the finalised minutes & presentation.
- 5/2/25 - Email to members with Meeting Notice & Agenda for this CCC.
- 23/2/26 – Email to members with reminder for this meeting.

### **AGL and Bayswater Update – Leisha Williams**

An update was provided on AGL's half year results, noting:

- AGL delivered a strong first-half performance, underpinned by improved operational reliability across its generation portfolio.
- Performance reflected a continued focus on flexible operations, including the increasing role of batteries in supporting reliability and managing market volatility.
- Customer outcomes continued to improve, with higher customer satisfaction and retention, alongside ongoing support for customers facing cost-of-living pressures.
- Investment in energy transition assets continued, including batteries and firming capacity, supporting both near-term energy security and longer-term transition objectives.
- It was noted that expenditure on transition assets is increasing over time, with near-term earnings from flexible assets contributing to funding future transition activities.
- The Committee was advised that Bayswater Power Station availability remains strong, reflecting effective maintenance and operational practices during the transition period.
- No changes were noted to the planned closure timing for Bayswater, with broader system reliability considerations focused on the late 2020s rather than the early-to-mid 2030s.

***Note: The update was provided for context only, with detailed financial information publicly available through AGL's published half-year results.***

An update was provided on Bayswater's apprentice and SBAT initiatives, noting:

- Five new apprentices commenced in January (four female, one male), with strong local representation.
- Apprentices will rotate through both thermal and renewable assets.
- Three local students are participating in a school-based apprentice training programme at Bayswater.
- Opportunities to connect apprentices with Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council were discussed and welcomed. DD stated that she would like to give me a tour of the LALC.

AGL outlined the rollout of a new lone-worker safety app, providing:

- Geo-fenced emergency response capability
- Improved communication for staff and contractors
- Ongoing training and onboarding underway.

An update was provided on the yellow hi-vis shirt initiative at Bayswater Power Station, noting:

- The initiative was led by the site's Volunteer Diversity and Inclusion Committee.
- Employees were invited to submit slogans, with selected messages printed on yellow hi-vis shirts worn on site.
- The slogans were designed to prompt conversation and awareness around respect, inclusion and safety within the workplace.
- The initiative supports a broader approach of embedding diversity and inclusion into everyday work practices, rather than limiting it to awareness days.
- Feedback to date has been positive, with the initiative helping to create visible, peer-led discussion across the workforce.

An update was provided on the Local Voices community sentiment survey, noting:

- The survey was conducted in late 2025 using a mix of in-person engagement and online participation to achieve a broader and more representative sample than previous telephone-only surveys.

- 
- Engagement occurred across multiple local towns, resulting in improved geographic and age diversity.
  - Results provide a baseline view of community sentiment, including perceptions of what AGL is doing well and areas where trust and understanding can be strengthened.
  - A relatively high proportion of responses were neutral or unsure, highlighting opportunities for clearer communication and ongoing engagement.
  - A two-page community summary will be shared with participants and made publicly available.
  - Follow-up pulse surveys are planned to track changes in sentiment over time.

---

## 07

### **Bayswater Environment – Andrew Speechly**

- A minor fly ash spill occurred on New England Highway in January and was managed in accordance with the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan, with prompt management and regulatory notification.
- Dust management continues through polymer application on Ravensworth South Void 5 and seeding trials proposed.
- Two anonymous community complaints regarding air quality were investigated; monitoring data showed no abnormal emissions.
- Water and sediment quality sampling is ongoing as part of a multi-year assessment study of Lake Liddell post closure of the station.

---

## 08

### **Liddell Transition – James Coventry**

An update was provided on demolition activities, including:

- Removal of administration buildings, workshops and ancillary structures.
- Preparatory works underway for stack demolition, including two test blasts to confirm engineering and safety outcomes.
- Explosive demolition of the Liddell chimney stacks is targeted for mid-to-late May 2026, subject to final approvals.
- Traffic management planning is being undertaken with Transport for NSW (TfNSW), NSW Police and SafeWork NSW, including temporary highway closures of approximately 30 minutes.
- Emergency Services and TfNSW have advised against a public viewing area due to safety considerations; a live stream option is being explored to manage public interest.
- Ongoing consultation with Councils and emergency services will continue.

---

## 09

### **Liddell Battery – Chirag Kakadiya**

- Construction is largely complete, with all battery units, inverters and transformers installed.
- Cold and hot commissioning is underway.
- Staged “hold-point” testing is progressing, with full capacity targeted by late May 2026.
- Social licence commitments are tracking well.

- 
- Remaining works include minor internal roads, buildings and documentation handover to operations.
  - ST asked when batteries will come online. CK advised that batteries are gradually being brought online following Hold Point testing. Currently at Hold Point 1 Testing which 75MW capacity online out of 500MW.
- 

## 10

### Hunter Energy Hub – Jane Callinan

An update was provided on the whole-of-site master planning process, noting:

- Planning considers industrial, agricultural and biodiversity land uses.
  - Rezoning is being approached holistically rather than on a parcel-by-parcel basis.
  - Engagement with Muswellbrook and Singleton Councils is underway, with further updates expected at the next CCC meeting.
  - No new MOUs were announced; discussions with potential proponents remain subject to confidentiality.
- 

## 11

### New Projects – Mel Cleary

AGL is continuing early planning and development work on a number of potential energy projects in the region, including:

- Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro – subject to further investigation, planning and approvals.
- Muswellbrook Battery – an approved project, progressing through secondary development and assessment processes.
- Beresfield Battery – an approved project, with early works and engagement activities underway.
- Awaba Battery – an approved project, with early engagement activities underway.

These proposed projects are at different stages of development and remain subject to various regulatory approvals, commercial considerations and future decisions.

DD asked who the First Nations companies were that have registered interest in providing construction work on the projects; raising concerns regarding “**black cladding**” (misrepresentation of Aboriginal businesses).

Key points:

- Strong interest in ensuring genuine Aboriginal businesses are engaged.
  - Importance of verification through recognised Aboriginal community structures.
  - AGL acknowledged the issue and the need for continued diligence and engagement.
-

---

## 12

### AGL in the Community – Polly Yuille

Updates included:

- Launch of the hospitality training café partnership with Muswellbrook Shire Council and Muswellbrook High School.
- A new three-year partnership with Where There's a Will Foundation, supporting mental health education in schools.
- Ongoing employee volunteering, including with OzHarvest.
- Delivery of family and domestic violence awareness sessions for employees and contractors.

---

## 13

### General Business

- GM thanked LM and Mark Thorley for the invitation for a Bayswater site visit to Tamworth Electrotechnology staff, which will be in invaluable teaching aid for the students.
- GM passed on his deep gratitude for AGL's support of the youth leadership program with Where There is a Will group.
- GM raised the desire to set up a display in Muswellbrook of the historical material secured from Liddell and the old Bayswater simulator.
- Further discussion about establishing a formal historical record of the Liddell site and its demolition, potentially in partnership with councils and libraries.
- JF raised interest in photographic and time-lapse records for long-term community access. RC advised that time lapse imagery is being undertaken. GM commented that displaying items in town about the history of Liddell would be a good tourist attraction. DD suggested a formal request be made to Council.
- Recognition of long-serving contributors to the site and the CCC.
- DD commented on the large number of renewable projects in NSW and the need to educate proponents on current land claims over Crown land. Stating that the LALC is the authority, not the Crown. Acknowledging that AGL have been proactive in this regard.
- DD provided an update on the Keeping Place which is nearly completion. A grant has been submitted to assist with the construction of the cabinetry to house the artefacts.
- DD advised that the building will be available for hire.
- DD explained the launch of the Parah Rangers Program, to occur on 16/3/26. Clontarf in Singleton and Muswellbrook will be included in the program.
- DD announced that 501 families were fed at the Christmas luncheon and thanked AGL for its sponsorship.
- DD explained the Schools Program – providing uniforms, calculators, bus passes, and equipment for disadvantaged students.
- JF advised that Muswellbrook Council will be making a submission to the state government's proposed draft Statewide Industrial Lands Policy and has discussed this with both JC and Singleton Council staff. Land owned by mines in Muswellbrook Shire are not zoned industrial, but rural and environmental. The Liddell/Bayswater site is also not zoned industrial, but Special Purpose, and all these lands used for industrial purposes should be recognised in the state's Industrial Policy.

---

## 14

### Next Meeting

- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026, Future U Hub, Bayswater Power Station, commencing at 10am.

---

**15**

**Meeting Closed**

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

**Action Items**

- Organise a visit to WLALC for 1st Year apprentices.
- Share Local Voices summary document with CCC members.