



Meeting	AGL Hunter - Community Consultative Committee
Venue	Future U Hub, Bayswater Power Station
Time	10:00am – 12:00pm
Date	20 November 2025
Chair	Lisa Andrews
Attendees	AGL representatives: Len McLachlan, James Coventry, Polly Yuille, Mel Cleary, Chirag Kakadiya (<i>online</i>), Andrew Speechly, Alana Fisher-Webster (minute taker). CCC Members: Cr Graeme McNeill (Muswellbrook Shire Council), Stephen Thatcher, De-Anne Douglas, (Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council - <i>online</i>), Jennifer Lecky, Kevin Timpson, Mary-Anne Crawford (Singleton Shire Council)
Apologies	Mike Kelly (Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry), Laurie Perry (Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation) Rob Cooper, Jo Ferguson, Cr Sue Moore (Mayor Singleton Shire Council), Sharon Pope (Muswellbrook Council), Derek Finnigan (Muswellbrook Shire Council), Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr (Singleton Shire Council), Cr Rod Scholes (Muswellbrook Shire Council) & Ruth Rogers.

Agenda items and minutes

Item	Discussion
01	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies – Chair - Meeting opened at 10:05am, Lisa Andrews - Acknowledgment of Country - Introduction of today's attendees, including new SSC representative, Mary-Anne Crawford - Manager Community, Growth & Evolution (MAC). Apologies – as listed above.
02	Safety Share – Jamie Coventry Jamie Coventry was showing the new ESO coordinator Jamie, around the Liddell Ash Dam. Whilst they were at the dam they received a notification for an incident on the highway. The team were first responders at the scene. Acknowledgment to Jamie and the team at MSS. Demonstrating AGL's commitment to supporting the community.
03	Declarations of Interest No changes to previous declarations. LA confirmed that MAC has completed and submitted the governance forms.
04	Confirmation of previous minutes The minutes of the previous CCC, held on 28 August 2025 were finalised on 19th September 2025. There were three action items from that meeting:

05

Business arising

Action Items:

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.	GE not in attendance, held over.
Investigate purchase of safety glasses by non-local supplier.	Len McLachlan	Next Meeting	PY responded – see below*
Send link for the Local Voices community survey. Results to be provided in future meeting.	Polly Yuille	Next Meeting.	Complete – link sent 30/8/25.

*The main supplier onsite is Bolle through Blackwoods although there is still the option for staff to utilise local optometrists as personal preference.

06

Correspondence as sent out with the meeting notice on 6/11/25

- 30/8/25 – Email to members with the Local Voices survey link. Action Item: 3 from the Q3 meeting.
- 11/9/25 - Email to members with the draft minutes for review.
- 19/9/25 - Email to members with the finalised minutes.
- 8/10/25 – Email to members rescheduling meeting to 20/11/25.
- 6/11/25 – Email to members with agenda for this meeting
- 17/11/25 – Email to members with reminder for this meeting.

07

AGL and Bayswater Update – Len McLachlan

Slides presented with additional commentary:

- AGL CEO & COO visited site in November. Their itinerary included a town hall meeting with employees, visit to sites for the Muswellbrook Battery and Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro projects and they also toured “The MELT” in Muswellbrook.
- AGL has undertaken a re-structure process resulting in some changes to Total Fixed Remuneration and Enterprise Agreement employee roles in the business. Applications currently open for voluntary redundancies at Bayswater.
- Bayswater is currently facilitating an outage on Units 4 that also incorporates a two-week outage on Unit 3 for work on shared infrastructure.



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- Downer, primary contractor for outage work, is negotiating an enterprise agreement. This has led to protected industrial action from the Downer workforce, which has had an impact on the outage timeline.
 - Two- shifting trial was also completed during the outage enabling Bayswater to reach a record scheduled low load – running at 430MW for a four-hour period.
 - The work of steeplejacks on the chimney during the outage captured attention of workforce (*Videos shown during presentation.*)

Bayswater Employee Transition

- P&C together with Bayswater Team Leaders have scheduled more than 400 one-on-one conversations with employees to discuss their plans leading towards Bayswater closure by 2033.
- 337 conversations have been completed, key data insights from these shared on slides.

Bayswater People

- Celebrated Recognition of Service dinner in September.
- In his capacity as Special Envoy for Men's Health, Dan Repacholi MP visited site to lead a discussion on men's health.

Sustainability

- Sustainability win at Bayswater with the removal of redundant conveyor belt - 1000 tonnes sent to China and Vietnam to be reused.

MAC asked if there is a connection between concern about Bayswater closure and age bracket? LMc will check with P&C team for clarification. LMc feels that concerns are most common for those close to retirement.

MAC enquired whether there has been much engagement with the Net Zero Economy Authority? LMc responded that AGL hosted the Chair for a site tour soon after he started and AGL is in ongoing consultation with them at its sites across Australia.

KT asked if there will be any transmission lines running through the old Muswellbrook Power Station. LMc was unsure if there are any plans in the pipeline for this.

KT enquired whether there are any other forms of contamination present from many years of operation to be concerned about for closure? LMc advised that there is extensive regulation around managing rehabilitation requirements post closure and this is something AGL are already working through with Liddell.

08

Bayswater Environment – Andrew Speechly

Slides presented with additional commentary:

- Update on performance from year to date.
- No reportable incidents
- Recently submitted the annual EPBC Compliance Report – no non-compliances. Available on our website.
- eDNA monitoring for the presence of platypus in the Hunter River between Denman and Long Point commenced in ~2016. Water sample results (displayed on slides) have indicated an increase in the platypus population in 2024 and 2025.
- There was one community complaint made anonymously to the EPA on 29 August regarding odour. AGL advised EPA that winds were consistently W to NW, with Bayswater being downwind of the recorded location of the complaint. No follow-up was required.

09

Liddell Transition Jamie Coventry

Slides presented with additional commentary:

- Site Update – Liddell (Slide 19)
- CMA (Demolition contractor) received approval to commence full scale demolition on Monday 17 November. Early works have focused on internal works and turbine separation (photos shared on screen).
- CMA have installed a large battery cell with small diesel backup to power the site's temporary electrical supplies, reducing emissions and diesel usage.
- Some services, including station lifts, turbine crane and water supplies, have been temporarily recommissioned.
- Blast Management Plans are currently with SafeWork NSW and the Department of Planning for review.
- Waste goes to multiple local Muswellbrook Shire waste facilities and AGL has an on-site containment cell which will be used for disposal of asbestos.
- Eddy Oval has been converted into a sediment basin to meet water management obligations required under the Environment Protection License. Magnesium blocks being removed.
- One of Liddell's HP turbines will be donated to Muswellbrook Council.

10

Liddell Battery - Chirag Kakadiya (online)

Slides presented with additional commentary

- Key milestones displayed on screen.
- Project has obtained approval from the AEMO as Integrated Resource Provider (this is a registration category that will allow the battery to import and export electricity and provide market and ancillary services under one framework in the NEM).
- Construction and commissioning of the battery substation and the new 330kV transmission line has been completed.
- The battery substation was energized on 9th October 2025
- All the 1548 battery cubes, 168 (of 172) inverters and all the core transformers are installed.
- MV cable installation is complete and LV cable installation is substantially completed.



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- Battery switch room and control room is targeted to for energization on 21st November.
 - Aerial picture of the battery was displayed in the presentation.

GMc asked what the ongoing maintenance details for the battery will be (what it involves, number of employees required etc). CK advised that approximately 6-10 employees will be required for maintenance. GMc enquired whether AGL is looking to build more batteries if the Liddell battery is successful. CK noted that AGL has a pipeline of renewable energy projects, including other battery projects in the Hunter region.

11

Hunter Hub

Slides presented with additional commentary

- Whole of Site Plan will be the focus of work from August 2025 to early 2026.
- Confidential conversations and visits to site are ongoing with potential proponents from a wide range of industries.
- Conversations with all levels of Government are also ongoing and have included a Canberra visit and meeting with Minister Ayers' Office.

12

New Projects – Mel Cleary

(Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro, Muswellbrook Battery and Beresfield Battery)

Slides presented with additional commentary:

New website for Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro:

<https://muswellbrookpumpedhydro.engagementhub.com.au/>

DAD commented that the different renewable projects in the REZ need to consult with the LALC as all Crown Land in the area is subject to Land Right Claims and that she appreciates AGL's commitment in this regard.

DAD asked how many of the EOI registered businesses for Muswellbrook and Beresfield batteries are First Nations businesses. **Action: Taken on notice.**

MAC commented on the small to medium businesses that are unable to meet local procurement projects requirements. MC sought recommendations on how AGL could address this. MAC stated that templates, with standard documents for each organisation. Council, Transgrid, EnergyCo, AGL, etc creating templates that can be agreed and used for WH&S systems, procurement, etc.

MAC asked 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? **Action: Taken on notice.**

13

AGL in the Community Polly Yuille

Slides presented with additional commentary:

- AGL fundraising for the Singleton Neighbourhood Centre and Upper Hunter Homeless Support has raised \$100K, the 2025 Bayswater Ball at Two Rivers was a major fundraising event.
 - Student winners of the Bayswater 40th colouring competition and their families were welcomed to site for tours during recent school holidays.
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- Successful recipients of October AGL Community Grants shown on screen. Next round opens in March 2026.
 - AGL won the Clean Energy Council's Equity, Inclusion & Diversity Award for transformative impact on inclusion and workforce diversity. This was an acknowledgement of work with the Second Chance for Change Program on the Liddell Battery project.
 - GMc shared an email he received from "Where There's a Will" seeking assistance to raise awareness of their need for funding. He has forwarded to PY to consider and assess criteria for funding. There may be a possibility of an educational based partnership.
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14

General Business and Future meeting items

De-anne Douglas

- Thanked AGL for its support of the Second Chance for Change program.
 - Briefed the Committee on a range of mental health initiatives delivered during September: "Forever Loved" – a free day for the community held on Father's Day to honour those affected by suicide. Highly successful and hopes to extend to other areas in NSW. Dubbo will host next year.
 - The Walk for Jared, through Lifeline is helping to bring more awareness as well as "Talk to me Bro", which is an event held at the Scone Air Museum. Wally Lewis is an Ambassador for this initiative and hopes to return next year.
 - The Wanaruah Keeping Place building is under construction. Costs have blown out from \$432k to \$735k, not including the car park. Invitation to hold a future meeting there when finished.
 - Christmas Day lunch hosted by Black Roo. Important for community members not to feel alone. Everyone encouraged to attend.
 - Pilot Project with Yr 10 students from St Joseph's School at Aberdeen. 88 students attended and made craft/decorations at the local senior citizens hall for residents of aged care facilities as well as for the hospital, police and fire first responders as a thank you for keeping the community safe at Christmas.
 - JL commented on the success of the Upper Hunter Conservatorium of Music concerts. PY stated that AGL is keen to continue funding these events.
 - KT enquired whether recent earthquakes southwest of Muswellbrook had caused any movement on site. LMc advised that vibrations were felt. AGL has strict protocols for inspecting the integrity of its dams. There haven't been any implications from recent earthquake activity in the region. Monitoring systems have been installed onsite.
 - GMc stated that it would be good to obtain more information on the jobs transition program?
 - GMc asked if there is a date for when the stacks are coming down? LMc advised, possibly first quarter next year. Stating that it is not going to be a community event due to safety and risk management requirements.
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- GMc noted that AGL has been a great company supporting injured workers.
- PY highlighted Dan Repacholi MP, encouraging employees to utilise Employee Assistance Programmes and other medical initiatives on offer.

15

Meeting Schedule for 2026. Agreed to continued quarterly meetings, on site at Bayswater Power Station, commencing at 10am on:

- ✚ Thursday 26 February
- ✚ Thursday 28 May
- ✚ Thursday 27 August
- ✚ Thursday 26 November

16

Meeting closed at 11:58am – LA thanked all for their attendance and participation throughout 2025, wishing members a safe and happy festive season

Action Items

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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%).