

EnergyAustralia Lithgow Regional Community Consultative Committee Annual Report for Year 2021 - 2022

Community Consultative Committee Details

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| CCC / Project Name: | EnergyAustralia Lithgow Regional CCC | Reporting Period: | October 2021 – October 2022 |
| Independent Chairperson: | Brendan Blakeley | Proponent Contact: | Mick Hanly |

1. Executive Summary

The EnergyAustralia Lithgow Regional Community Consultative Committee (CCC) was established in 2018 and combined previous committees overseeing the operational Mt Piper, the decommissioned Wallerawang Power stations as well as the Pine Dale Mine.

Mt Piper Station supplies around 14% of the NEM baseload generation capacity and is envisaged to remain operating through to 2040. Pine Dale mine is in care and maintenance mode with no active operations on site. As Wallerawang station has been disposed of and is under new ownership the CCC no longer has oversight of operations or planning for this area.

The CCC operates in accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment's 2019 Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects. The Committee is currently comprised of:

- seven local community representatives
- a representative from Lithgow City Council
- three Energy Australia representatives, with attendance from other personnel as required
- one independent Chairperson.

The committee meets 3 times per year. As per the guidelines, CCC members are aware that there is a mechanism to request a meeting outside of this regular schedule, if required.

Community representatives' attendance has been variable this year due to ongoing impacts of COVID and illness amongst members. Due to technology problems and poor connectivity in the area, online meetings have not proved a satisfactory format for members. The group is very comfortable with face-to-face meetings continuing. Measures to address lower attendance are outlined in Section 3.

At each meeting the committee is briefed on several standing matters as well as projects in focus. The committee has had opportunities to be informed of, and provide feedback on, matters relating to:

- site operations
- environmental performance
- the changing nature of the energy market and the transition to renewables
- planning studies including:
 - the Mt Piper Battery
 - Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro
- site water management and dam monitoring
- community matters.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

Committee meetings were held on the following dates:

- December 2021.
- March 2022.
- July 2022.
- December 2022

As required minutes of the meetings and supporting presentations have all been posted on the Energy Australia Mt Piper web page <https://www.energyaustralia.com.au/about-us/what-we-do/generating-energy/mt-piper-power-station/mt-piper-community>

While there are quite differing views among committee members, the group continues to work constructively, and varying views have all had an opportunity to be heard. In addition to CCC meetings all members have direct channels of communication with the EnergyAustralia community relations lead.

CCC members have also been forwarded copies of relevant media releases, notifications, and newsletters as they became available.

3. Membership

During 2022:

- Council replaced their representative on the CCC
- one member resigned,
- a nomination was received from Mr Rob White of the Concerned Lithgow Community Group that has formed in response to the Lake Lyell Hydro project. Mr White's nomination was accepted by DPE in October 2022.

Current membership is:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| • Energy Australia | 3 members |
| • Lithgow City Council | 1 member and alternate |
| • Mr Rob White | Concerned Lithgow Community Group |
| • Julie Favell | Lithgow Environment Group |
| • Aunty Helen Riley | Mingaan Aboriginal Corporation |
| • Alex Preema | Lithgow Acclimatisation Society |
| • Rob Cluff | Wallerawang Lidsdale Progress Association |
| • Jim Whitty | Local Resident |
| • Jamie Giokaris | Local Resident |

Participation in meetings is outlined below:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| • December 2021 | 6 CCC members in attendance |
| • March 2022 | 6 CCC members in attendance |
| • July 2022 | 5 CCC members in attendance |
| • December 2022 | 6 CCC members in attendance |

A focus of 2023 will be to increase attendance at meetings. In meetings and phone conversations all current representatives have expressed willingness to continue their involvement with the CCC.

As many of the positions represent local community organisations, members are looking to appoint alternate representatives for their organisations. It is expected this will support ongoing input and participation should a member need to be absent.

4. Key issues

There are many aspects to EnergyAustralia’s operations within the Lithgow region. These are detailed in individual meeting minutes, and the following table provides an overview of key issues of interest to the CCC:

| Issue | Actions Taken | Next Steps |
|---|---|---|
| Rail Coal Loader project | This project is in abeyance. | Committee will be updated if the status of this project changes. |
| Ongoing sourcing of coal and quality of local coal | Updates provided. | Committee will continue to be updated. |
| Groundwater Water Interception and Treatment Project | Detailed presentations provided. A range of options have been investigated. Due to high iron concentrations, treatment of water is not technically feasible using available technologies. EnergyAustralia continues to liaise with the relevant authorities about this matter. EnergyAustralia will expedite capping of ash dams to minimise the ingress of water and any subsequent leaching. | Ongoing. Members of the group remain concerned that leaching is occurring particularly in relation to local watercourses. The CCC will be updated on management actions and findings of ongoing monitoring. |
| Future of coal mining and impacts of decarbonisation in the Lithgow region | Updates provided. | Committee will continue to be updated. |
| EnergyAustralia’s role in renewables and energy transition | Updates on EnergyAustralia’s approach to renewables across the portfolio are provided at meetings. Local renewable projects include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro investigations and planning. • Mt Piper Battery Planning study | The Lake Lyell Hydro and Mt Piper Battery will be key items for discussion across 2023. |

| Issue | Actions Taken | Next Steps |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Community programs | Ongoing information provided. CCC members requested to promote program and applications. | Ongoing. |
| Management of ash repository | Regular updates on quantities of ash deposited and management actions provided to CCC. | Ongoing updates on management |
| Rehabilitation and remediation works | Monitoring data presented to CCC. | Ongoing updates. |
| Input to planning for other projects | If any other new projects are to be considered, they will be subject to consultation with the CCC. | As needed |

5. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2022 will include three meetings guided by the contributions and interests of CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- ongoing environmental performance
- Mt Piper operations
- community funding program
- ash dam management
- surface and groundwater management and water quality
- EnergyAustralia's approach to renewables and energy transition
- site management
- status of planning applications
- the Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro study
- Mt Piper Battery study.

I am not aware of any outstanding or emerging issues that have not been discussed to the committee's satisfaction, noting that many of the matters discussed at meetings are of an ongoing nature.

Signature of Chair:



Date:

20 January 2023