

AGL Camden Community Consultative Committee (CCC) – 2023 Annual Report

CCC project name:	AGL Camden Gas Project	Reporting period:	January 1 – December 31 2023.
Independent chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald	Proponent contact:	Aaron Clifton, Environment Program and Project Lead Rachel Marks, Camden Rehabilitation Manager Polly Yuille, Corporate Affairs Manager – Closure and Transition

1. Executive summary / introduction

The AGL Camden CCC began in July 2002 as part of a Consent Condition and Approval by the Minister for Planning to Sydney Gas Operation’s coal bed methane project at Camden. The project is located sixty five kilometres south west of Sydney in the Macarthur region of New South Wales and spans across the three Local Government Areas of Camden Council, Campbelltown City Council and Wollondilly Shire Council. It originally supplied 5% of the State’s gas supply into the AGL network and consisted of 144 gas wells, one hundred kilometres of low pressure, underground gas gathering lines, a high pressure supply line, the Ray Beddoe Treatment Plant at Cawdor, the Rosalind Park Gas Plant (RPGP) at Menangle, and associated infrastructure. Although the early stages of the project expanded the petroleum leaseholds, further stages did not proceed and in February 2016, AGL announced the planned decommissioning and rehabilitation of all the sites, with production ceasing on 28 August 2023.

The CCC is comprised of:

- Three local community representatives;
- Two representatives from the Barragal Landcare Group;
- Three Local Government staff representatives from Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly Councils and elected representatives when available;
- Three AGL representatives with attendance from other AGL personnel as required;
- An independent Chairperson.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months:

In accordance with Departmental approval, the CCC now meets annually with quarterly reports from AGL in the months when it doesn’t meet. These reports contain a similar format to that of meetings, providing information on operational

updates, progress of well decommissioning and rehabilitation, regulatory reporting, correspondence and community updates. The ordinary September meeting discussed the number of wells decommissioned, the cessation of production and shutting down of the RPGP, process of well decommissioning and potential for gas leaks, agreement with landholders on restoration and planned bulk earthworks for site rehabilitation through to mid 2024.

The revised DPE CCC guidelines were also discussed and the committee have signed the revised Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest documents and agreed on a Terms of Reference at the September meeting as required by the department.

During the reporting period an extraordinary meeting in April was held to finalise the legacy funding guidelines and nominate members for the assessment panel. The CCC had discussed in prior years AGL’s intention to provide legacy funding for larger projects across the three local government areas, beyond the normal smaller, local community investment program grants which concluded in 2023. A subsequent meeting of the assessment panel met in July to discuss and select the successful recipients of the applications received. The CCC was kept fully informed of this and the amount of \$475,000 allocation and status of the projects selected. Final outcomes were reported to the ordinary September meeting.

As the CCC has met on site at the RPGP for many years, no additional site visits were undertaken during 2023. With the decommissioning and rehabilitation of the RPGP, any remaining committee meetings will be held at AGL’s new office in Camden.

Since the inception of the CCC, a record number of sixty meetings has been held in over two decades and as such, this CCC can proudly acclaim to retaining two of its original members and keeping steadfast membership of later recruitments, who also hold admirable attendance records. As the CCC approaches near to its final conclusion, it must be acknowledged that given the enduring role it has delivered a graphic example of exemplary community engagement with local people and their communities, across three large local government councils and the company, AGL. It has demonstrated its worth and is clearly effective, the epitome of what all CCC’s should strive to be.

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions taken	Next steps
Long term legacy projects	CCC input and consensus of guidelines for funding and dissemination of information/advertising. Extraordinary meeting held	Completed.

	<p>in April 2023 selected Assessment Panel.</p> <p>Grant applications and allocations decided at assessment panel meeting held in July 2023.</p> <p>Announcement of successful major projects.</p>	
<p>Land management and rehabilitation</p>	<p>Decommissioning of 118 wells achieved.</p> <p>Ongoing engagement with CCC, three councils, landowners and broader community.</p>	<p>Finalisation of rehabilitation in accordance with EPA requirements expected July 2024 to March 2025.</p> <p>All sites restored and returned to landowners, relinquishment of PPLs.</p>

4. Focus for next 12 months:

- It is anticipated this will be the final year of the CCC and planned activities are likely to include normal monitoring and environmental performance reporting, finalisation of rehabilitation and well decommissioning, regulatory requirements and meeting targets towards closure.
- Currently, there are no known outstanding or emerging issues. However, it is reasonable to expect these will be addressed when and as they occur.

Name of chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill
Date:	February 22 2024.