

AGL CAMDEN GAS PROJECT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2019

AGL Camden Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	AGL Camden Community Consultative Committee	Reporting Period:	January - December 2019
Independent Chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent Contact:	David Mudd and Marina Draper

1. Executive Summary

The AGL Camden Community Consultative Committee was first established in July 2002 as part of a Consent Condition of Approval for Sydney Gas Operations. The history of the committee began prior to this as a community advisory panel convened by the former Department of Mineral Resources. Two of the original panel members still retain membership on the current committee, with a third only retiring late last year.

The Camden Gas Project is located sixty five kilometres south-west of Sydney in the Macarthur region of New South Wales, across the three local government areas of Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly. The Project currently produces approximately 5% of NSW's gas supply and consists of gas wells, 100 kilometres of low-pressure underground gas gathering lines, a high-pressure supply line, gas plant facilities and associated infrastructure.

The pilot plant known as the Ray Beddoe Treatment Plant was constructed by Sydney Gas, with the first delivery of gas produced in NSW into the AGL network in May 2001. The pilot plant was later decommissioned and rehabilitated with the new gas plant at Rosalind Park becoming operational as part of the Stage 2 approvals in February 2004. The joint venture between Sydney Gas and AGL ended in November 2005 when AGL acquired sole interest as the operator of the project. Further proposed stages did not proceed and in February 2016, AGL subsequently announced that it would progressively decommission wells and rehabilitate sites at the Camden Gas Project and cease all production by 2023.

The Committee 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:

- three local community representatives;
- two representatives from the Barragal Landcare Group;
- three Local Government representatives from Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly Councils;
- two AGL representatives, with attendance from other AGL personnel as required;
- one independent Chairperson.

The committee is a very stable one with its long term membership and has had the benefit and expertise of a representative from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for a number of years. In recent times, representatives from the Gas Regulation Branch and Regulator Services Branch of the EPA have regularly attended as invited guests. As stated in previous reporting, the opportunity to have questions answered by the EPA as they are raised by the committee can never be understated in the practice of

good community engagement. This has contributed significantly to the knowledge base of the committee members and their long-term commitment to the process.

Since the committee began, meetings have been held quarterly until 2016, when the committee resolved to seek the Department's approval to reduce its meeting schedule in recognition of the approaching finalisation of the project. The committee has met twice yearly since then and receives two written reports from the company in between meetings, in a similar meeting format and covering business, operations and environment updates, well decommissioning and rehabilitation progress, correspondence, landowners, community and stakeholders updates and the Local Community Investment Program. Even though September was the fifty fifth meeting of the committee, the members' interest has not waned, although attendance numbers do fluctuate occasionally. All members maintain an active commitment to their communities and local environment and the committee is an active participant in AGL's Local Community Investment Program grants application process.

As stated in last year's report, the committee was involved in the formulation of the AGL Community Engagement Policy, the AGL Community Complaints Framework and the AGL Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. As a long term and active committee, AGL has recognised the experience of its members as a valuable insight into the communities in which it operates.

For the reporting period, topics of discussion included but were not limited to:

- operations update including well status
- decommissioning and rehabilitation program and landowner satisfaction
- general environmental management and monitoring
- environmental compliance including noise, air emissions and produced water
- Annual Environmental Performance Report
- Annual Leak Detection Survey
- land and approvals update
- updates on Local Community Investment Program
- AGL business updates
- AGL Offsite Solar Program
- complaints and non-compliances
- Independent Environmental Audit and AGL Corrective Action Register
- relocation of Aboriginal artefacts
- broader community engagement and sponsorship.

As the Camden Gas Project approaches the end of operational life and enters the decommissioning and site rehabilitation stages, the committee is well briefed on the regulatory requirements and the phases leading to closure. It is proactive in seeking this information disseminated widely to the public through AGL's website and through the three local councils. The reporting process to the committee is comprehensive at meetings with informative PowerPoint presentations and in the context of the regular written updates. AGL is responsive to the committee's interests and suggestions at every level. There have been no community complaints for the last three years.

The commitment of all members has made this committee a very effective communication and educative forum between the community, the councils and the company. Even with sporadic attendance fluctuations, it has continued to function well over a great many years. A survey of the members' feedback below validates that it is meeting its objectives under the Department's guidelines:

- establish good working relationships and promote information sharing between the company, local community, council and stakeholder groups?
 - *"Yes, the group achieves this".*
- keep the community informed about projects/proposals, seek community views and respond to matters raised within the community?
 - *"Yes, although this depends on the level of community engagement. I have found during my time at the group that the attendance level by community is not as high as I would have expected".*
 - *"As far as trying to encourage more community engagement, I don't know what the answer is there. I know AGL have a lot of information on their website and put ads in the paper for the grants. Perhaps looking at a social media presence for the group would encourage more engagement?".*
- allow you the opportunity to seek information and give feedback on the development and implementation of projects/proposals to assist in achieving a balance of social, environmental and economical outcomes within the community?
 - *"Yes, the review of the AGL grant applications achieves this".*
 - *"my response is that the committee fulfils all of the objectives you listed. Also, while I am not the most vocal member I feel that if one of those objectives was not being met I would be able to speak up to ensure it was".*
 - *"It provides a good forum for discussions regarding the operations, future plans and developments and allows discussion and feedback to matters raised within the community.*
 - *It provides an excellent platform for information sharing between AGL, local community and local councils, providing accurate factual information.*
 - *It is my opinion the CCC is very worthwhile to the community".*

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- The committee met in March and September during the reporting period.
- Attendance at meetings is well attended with the occasional apology because of other commitments. Meeting dates are usually set at the end of each year, in consultation with the members, for the ensuing year to avoid any known conflicts.
- A site visit of some rehabilitated and decommissioned well sites was undertaken prior to the March meeting.
- There are no other active coal seam gas projects within NSW other than the Santos Narrabri project therefore no joint CCC's were held.

3. Key issues

The main focus for the committee as the Camden Gas Project approaches end of operational life over the next few years is the decommissioning and rehabilitation of all well sites and associated infrastructure.

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Land management and remediation	Close liaison with Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly Councils, landowners and broader community through dissemination of timely information. Well rehabilitation video shown to CCC.	Ongoing.
Future urbanisation of area	Identification of decommissioned well sites, notification process for councils and future land owners - register held by Government, access provided to local councils. Links to Common Ground website and SEED portal provided to CCC.	Ongoing. Updates from AGL/EPA as required.
Local Community Investment Program	Precedes normal CCC meeting. Invitation/Video compilation of grant applicants. Reporting of funding allocations and contribution to community projects.	Scheduled prior to ordinary meeting. CCC members invited to attend six monthly presentations. CCC members involvement between meetings as required.


4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2020 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. In accordance with the committee's September meeting and with the Department's approval, only one annual meeting will be held during the current year and continue until 2023, although if there is a request, an extraordinary meeting can be convened in the interim. AGL will continue to provide quarterly reports to the CCC.

Involvement with the AGL Local Community Investment Program will continue throughout the year.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed or are in the process of being so, to the committee's satisfaction.

Committee Meeting minutes and presentations are available on the website within two weeks of each meeting.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	April 21 2020