

AGL CAMDEN GAS PROJECT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2020

AGL Camden Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	AGL Camden Community Consultative Committee	Reporting Period:	January - December 2020
Independent Chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent Contacts:	Marina Draper and David Mudd

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.

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 and enjoys the benefit of dedicated membership, long term knowledge and the expertise of a representative from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for a number of years. For the reporting period, the EPA Director of Regulatory Operations has participated at meetings as an invited guest. As stated previously, the opportunity to have the EPA representative at the committee meetings and respond to any questions raised at the time, is a very good model for

best practice 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 by 2026. Further consideration of this took place during the November 2019 meeting and the committee again sought the department's approval to reduce meetings to annually until 2023, when all gas production activities will have ceased, all rehabilitation completed and the end of life of the project on target for 2026. The department subsequently agreed to the committee's proposal in early February 2020, with a further review of the meeting frequency between 2023 and 2026, if necessary, to address any requirements for additional community consultation in the final stage.

The committee had planned to meet in March 2020, however, because of Covid-19, the meeting was postponed to September. The committee is involved in the Local Community Investment Program and reviews the two rounds of funding applications as part of its meeting agenda each year. The review of the March applications was undertaken online by the committee and the second round was presented to the September meeting.

The committee receives quarterly AGL reports between meetings advising of business, operations and environment updates, well decommissioning and rehabilitation progress, correspondence, landowners, community and stakeholders updates, including those with local councils and Members of Parliament and the Local Community Investment Program grants. The committee was also briefed on AGL's Carbon Neutral electricity product certified by the Federal Government Climate Active program which offers a carbon neutral option on all AGL plans.

A good rapport exists among all parties and occurs beyond the meeting schedule. Over many years, AGL has established itself as a good neighbour, supportive of the local areas where it operates and consequently, has earned the respect not only of the committee but also within the region. During the year, the committee was briefed on AGL's assistance to the Bushfire Volunteers Rapid Relief team during the 2019/20 fires, the Farmers and Business Assist Programs for drought relief in the region and support to the Camden Region Economic Taskforce Road to Recovery following Covid-19 and the relocation of Aboriginal artefacts at the Wandinong property and preparations for the Glenlee property in consultation with the Cubbitch Barta Clan.

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
- Geoscience Australia Report on geodetic subsidence and seismic activity at Camden
- land and approvals update
- updates on Local Community Investment Program
- AGL business updates
- complaints and non-compliances
- AGL climate statement
- 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 a number of 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.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- The committee met in September during the reporting period.
- Online discussions took place first half of 2020 because of Covid-19.
- Attendance at meetings is well attended with the occasional apology because of other commitments. Meeting dates are set at the end of each year, in consultation with the members, for the ensuing year to avoid any known conflicts.
- No site visit was undertaken during the period because of Covid-19.
- 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.	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.	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.
Proposal on using Camden pipe network for reticulation of recycled water after decommissioning	Proposal discussed at September CCC meeting	Discussions with local councils, State Government, AGL and Sydney Water. Update to CCC at future meeting.

4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2021 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:	March 22 2021