

AGL CAMDEN GAS PROJECT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2022

AGL Camden Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	AGL Camden Community Consultative Committee	Reporting Period:	January - December 2022
Independent Chairperson:	Margaret MacDonald-Hill	Proponent Contacts:	Rachel Marks and Aaron Clifton

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 2% 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 August 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 met quarterly between 2002 to 2016, biannually from 2016 to 2019 and with the Department's concurrence, reduced its meeting schedule to annual until 2023, when gas production activities have ceased, all rehabilitation completed and the end of life of the project on target for 2026. A further review of the meeting frequency will occur between 2023 and 2026, if necessary, to address any requirements for additional community consultation in the final stage.

Attendance levels remained consistently high at the annual meeting in September 2022, held via a mix of video-conferencing and in person options. Apart from the regular topics discussed at the meeting, the long term legacy project and the need for an extraordinary meeting to progress ideas for one to two larger projects in the three local government areas, financial year results in challenging energy industry and market conditions and the cancellation of the AGL demerger and inclement weather delaying some decommissioning works were raised.

Between scheduled meetings, the committee receives quarterly AGL reports 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.

As a committee that has spanned over two decades, members are well known and respected within their local communities. AGL has clearly demonstrated its good corporate citizenship within the region over a long period and continues to raise awareness of its activities as it approaches end of project life. There have been no community complaints regarding environmental concerns for several years.

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

- operations update including well status
- decommissioning and rehabilitation project timeline
- petroleum titles update and review of existing PPLs and relinquishment
- landholder satisfaction
- general environmental management and monitoring
- environmental compliance including noise, air emissions and produced water
- Annual Environmental Performance Report
- land and approvals update
- Local Community Investment Program
- AGL business updates including notice of cessation of demerger
- complaints and non-compliances
- broader community engagement and sponsorship
- Biennial Independent Environmental Audit.
- Department of Regional NSW Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund

As the Camden Gas Project is in the final stages of operational life, 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 local councils' networks.

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.

The commitment of all members has made this committee a very effective communication and educative forum between the community, the councils and the company, certainly one that has proven the test of time.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

- The committee met in September during the reporting period.
- Meeting schedules 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.
- 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

As in previous years, 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 and the potential legacy projects.


Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Land management and remediation and request for resumption of regular updates to representative councils.	Close liaison with Camden, Campbelltown and Wollondilly Councils, landowners and broader community through dissemination of timely information. Meetings resumed with local councils.	Ongoing. Map of existing wells and decommissioning updates to be provided to councils and committee at meetings. 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	Reporting of funding allocations and contribution to community projects.	CCC members involvement as required.
Long term legacy project	Concept raised at September 2021 meeting. Invitation to committee members and councils to propose ideas raised at September 2022.	Extraordinary meeting of committee and council representatives to identify possible projects to be held in first quarter of 2023.

4. Focus for next 12 months

The planned activities for 2023 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. Quarterly Reports and updates will continue as in previous years.

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 16 2023.