

Project	Hydro Kurri Kurri Site Redevelopment Project	From	Sonya Pascoe
Subject	Community Reference Group Meeting	Tel	1800 066 243
Venue/Date/Time	Thursday 18 February 2021 Hydro Aluminium / MS Teams video conference 6.02pm – 7.49pm	Job No	2218982
Copies to	All committee members		
Attendees	<p>Mr Richard Brown – Managing Director, Hydro Kurri Kurri (RB)</p> <p>Mr Kerry McNaughton – Environmental Officer, Hydro Kurri Kurri (KM)</p> <p>Cr Darrin Gray – Cessnock City Council (DG)</p> <p>Mr Brad Wood – Community representative (BW)</p> <p>Mr Toby Thomas – Community representative, Towns with Heart (TT)</p> <p>Mrs Kerry Hallett – Hunter BEC (KH)</p> <p>Mr Allan Gray – Community representative - Retired Mineworkers (AG)</p> <p>Mr Michael Ulph – CRG Chair, GHD (MU)</p> <p>Mr Andrew Walker – Hydro Kurri Kurri Project Manager (AW)</p> <p>Cr Robert Aitchison – Maitland City Council (RA)</p> <p>Mr Andrew Neil – Manager Strategic Planning, Maitland City Council (AN)</p> <p>Mr Iain Rush – Cessnock City Council (attending for Martin Johnson) (IR)</p> <p>Ms Sonya Pascoe – Minutes, GHD</p>		
Guests/observers	<p>Mr Shaun Taylor – Ramboll (ST)</p> <p>Mr Dean Thompson –General Manager - Investment and Strategy, Snowy Hydro (DT)</p> <p>Mr Ian Smith – Project Approvals Manager, Snowy Hydro (IS)</p> <p>Mrs Angela Felton – Community Engagement Specialist, Snowy Hydro (AF)</p>		
Apologies	Mr Bill Metcalfe – Community representative (BM)		
Not present	<p>Mr Rod Doherty – Kurri Kurri Business Chamber (RD)</p> <p>Ms Debra Ford - Community representative (DF)</p> <p>Ms Tara Dever – CEO Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council (TD)</p>		

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1 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Meeting commenced at 6.02pm

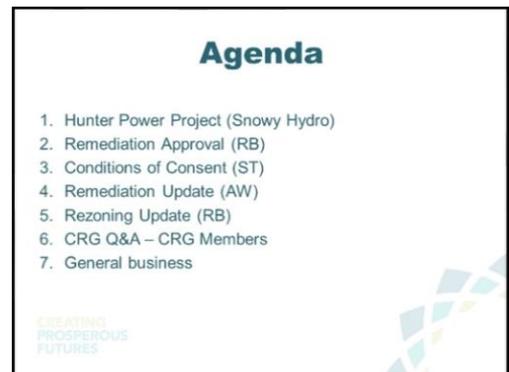
Michael Ulph (Chair) (MU)

Acknowledgement of country.

Sonya Pascoe from GHD taking minutes.



2 Meeting agenda



3 Welcome and meeting opening

MU welcomed attendees, acknowledgement of country and noted apologies.

MU asked those present to declare any pecuniary interests.

No pecuniary interests declared by the CRG.

4 Last meeting minutes

KH moved the minutes.

DG seconded the minutes.

5 Hunter Power Project

MU: The next item is the Hunter Power Project, and I would like to welcome our special guests. Now Angela, if you would like to run proceedings and introduce our special guests for us that would be great, and also we have the slide pack as well, and I believe that Andrew has that ready to share if you would like.

AW: I might just share that now Michael.

MU: Are you ok with that Ange?

AF: Yes, that's fine, thanks Andrew, thanks Michael,

MU: Alright, while we are doing that I might ask our guests, are you guys 'local' local at the moment or are you coming to us from the snow?

DT: Yeah, I can kick off, I'm originally a Forster/Tuncurry boy, just up the road, sort of in relative sense. I came down to Sydney. I'm based in Sydney at our head office for the corporate function as my title suggests I'm in the strategy team, but regular commuters to and from Cooma and out into our projects and our scheme assets as well. We're a mobile bunch, we get around, but at the moment based in Sydney.

MU: Alright, take it away.

AF: Alright, so we might just jump to the next one there which is a bit of an intro of our team.

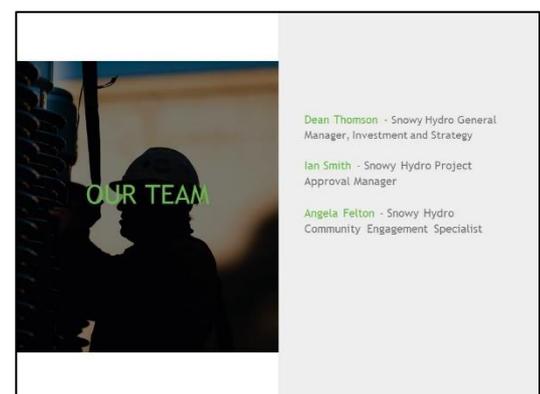
So, we've met Dean, and Ian's just jumped in there as a visible person as well.

IS: Ian Smith, I'm down in the Snowies, so I can actually see Mount Kosciuszko from out my window here which is nice. I get up your way every now and then, and my job on this one is to see the EIS through and get those approvals, and we've been working quite well with the Hydro guys on site and McCloy's and it's been going well to date.

AF: I'm Angela, I'm a local as well. I'm on the western side of Lake Macquarie. As Michael mentioned we've done lots of Newcastle projects over the years in various organisations so I'm working on the Snowy team on this one as well.

AF: So, then I might hand over to Dean if you're good to run through a bit about Snowy and a bit about the project.

DT: It's rare to find someone who hasn't heard of or had some linkage, family or friends or otherwise to the Snowy scheme. The assets are fairly well known from the hydro perspective but more broadly as a corporate we've been in the gas fired power station game for quite a while. Ian kind of undersold himself such as the





bloke he is. He had a lot to do with bringing the technical side of these power stations together. We've got a couple in Melbourne, one either side, one in Laverton North and one in the ~~Loy Yang~~ Latrobe Valley. And as part of buying the Lumo retail brand we also bought some diesel power stations, one of which is in the Hunter Economic Zone up there.

We've been around forever, but the Snowy 2.0 is the only hydro augmentation we've done since the mid-70s when Tumut 3 was completed. That's travelling at a pace and I've had a lot to do with that, I'm the Commercial Director for 2.0 and now project sponsor for the Hunter Power Project. Our background, Ian, myself, and others, is to get the project developed and through those project development milestones as smoothly as possible. It's rare that you come across a power project such as the Hunter Power Project where all of the characteristics seem to point to a good site for the asset.

It will be built and operated similarly to the Colongra power station. There are a couple of sites coming up in the percentage of time that we will operate, but effectively you can't have renewables coming into the market (solar, wind and others) without firm capacity to back up the electricity demand from the supply side. So you can fill those demands to mums, dads and businesses etc. that renewables create, we are filling in those gaps with gas fired and hydro (power). And there is only so much hydro you can do. That's the basic story.

The next slide is what I was alluding to. We'll be operating in the order of 2% per year. We think about 8,760 hours in a year and this will be operating 100 and 350 hours a year. 100 to 150 of those will be to physically hedge our operations to the NEM. We basically are the insurer to the NEM, and I'll go through that if anyone wants more information on that, it's a longer story.

We are not an energy player, so we're not burning gas just to create energy, we're only there to back those very short periods where the demand / supply balance is not being met. And in the longer term it'll be renewables and gas, well, renewables, gas, hydro, and batteries rather than coal. That's the way the economics are pointing at the moment.

So if you want renewables, these types of developments are essential. As we've said there, it's up to 750 megawatts and we'll come to a bit more detail about that as well. We've done some detailed program analysis, and given Liddell is shutting down, they plan to shut down three of their four units in April 2023, just before Winter 2023. We think we can get this up and running, if everything goes our way, one unit ahead of the other about two or three months apart, in that August to December 2023 range.

ABOUT SNOWY HYDRO

Who are we
Owner and operator of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme, beginning in 1949, retail electricity companies Red Energy & Lumo, and three gas-fired power stations in Victoria and NSW.

Australian owned, our single shareholder is the Commonwealth government.

What we do
Generate electricity into the National Electricity Market (NEM).

How that works
We provide "peak demand" electricity to underpin the transition to renewables, and existing baseload generators. When the wind drops off, the sun goes down, or coal can't ramp up.....our power stations turn on and supply the market.



WHAT ARE WE PROPOSING

750MW gas turbine power station on the Hydro aluminium smelter site

Operating about 2% of the year, potentially up to 10%

Power station operation is planned to commence between August and December 2023, construction from January 2022.



December 2023 is crucial in that summer period, and these plants are most crucial in that summer period where demand is high and particularly wind is low, and where everybody has their air conditioning on.

So, the slide you've got up now,

MU: This is familiar to us slightly.

DT: Yeah you would've spent a lot of time on this. So, we plan to put the power station in the old switch yard, which is at the top of the big rectangle. The reason we like it up there is it's the furthest away from neighbours. It's also quite close to electrical connections which goes out two directions. The existing switch yard is planned to be demolished and there will be a brand-new switch yard in that box with the number one.

That's away from that offset land with those trees up to the top-left and we've tried to stay away from the water retention basins as well. That's stopped a few other things that Hydro and McCloy would've had to do with water retention etc. The most logical site for us, Snowy, was to put it on that switchyard. That creates a bit of to-ing and fro-ing with Ausgrid and some programming interface stuff we have to manage.

Essentially what that footprint allows us to do is to build our power station, but it also has enough land around it in terms of a noise buffer. We've carefully modelled, under different meteorological conditions with our expert engineers, Jacobs, just what that looks like as to not upset future neighbours.

Everyone can read this, so I won't go into details but what it looks like is two turbines and stacks. The turbines will be between 330 and 375 megawatts depending on which manufacturer we go with and they just sit on the concrete deck. There will be back up diesel in case of gas shortage so we can still service the market as and when needed. Obviously we don't want to get in way of McCloy being able to develop the rest of their site once the Hydro remediation has taken place. The plant footprint is around 6.6 hectares.

IS: This is the overview. We are in the middle of the planning process and in the middle of preparing our EIS. From the opening comment, it seems you have some familiarity with the one you have just gotten through. We are hoping to do ours in a slightly shorter time frame. Otherwise, Dean will be displeased with me, we'll see if we can make that happen.

We got out SEARS this year. We put out a scoping report last year when we kicked off the process. The SEARS are our instructions from NSW Planning as to how we should go about it,



the components of the EIS, the things we need to assess, and that's what we've got underway, all the technical studies.

We've done all the fieldwork, which we've had a lot of help from the Hydro guys, Andrew and Richard who are on the call have been very helpful, and those studies are coming to completion. We are hoping to put our EIS in by the end of March and get a decision by October/November this year to kick off construction January next year. We also got the development declared Critical State Significant Infrastructure last year, which is a good thing and clears a few hurdles for us. It unfortunately puts us in the papers a bit which is good and bad. That's basically where we are in the process. We can go to the next slide now Ange.

IS: These are the main components, there are obviously a few more, but these are probably the main parts of the EIS. I feel like I should be here asking all of you on your views of this. I think this is Meeting 43 I saw on the front slide.

MU: That's right.

IS: You might know all the things I'm trying to find out.

We had a couple of site visits from the Registered Aboriginal Parties. We had 21 Registered Aboriginal Parties see the site on two visits and they've gone on quite well. There's no recorded sites within the project boundary. There's quite a number of sites within the vicinity. We've been asked to be commensurate with the potential impacts, so nothing outlandish, we'll engage people to monitor trenching work. We'll have piles that are going to go quite deep, potentially 15 to 18 metres and might encounter alluvium. The consideration there is that while we're on a highly disturbed site on the face of it, we're actually going to depth and there could be an artefact at depth, so we'll monitor those processes. We've got our Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report, people call it an ACHAR, out with the Aboriginal parties at the moment for comment. That should come back during March. I'll just step through these, but if anyone has questions raise your hand or interrupt.

MU: We are running a bit short on time, so I'll ask people to just hold their questions until the end. Thanks.

IS: Fair enough, I'll get going then. So, air quality and emissions is the one impact that isn't in relation to the nature of disturbance to the site. We work out the emissions that come out of the stacks and model those and work out during all meteorological conditions, what the impact might be at ground level at surrounding residences. We do that for an array of pollutants, nitrogen oxide is the primary one, and because of the area we are in, particulate matter is also quite important. We just got those results back and the background levels of particulate matter is





quite high in the region due to the last couple of years and bushfire. We found what we generate is within the variability of those ranges, so we think we're ok there. That's a reasonable key assessment for us.

Biodiversity, as you would've seen on the map that Dean scribed of the new switch yard area. The extent of disturbance for the project of new ground is about two hectares, a bit less, so it's very minimal disturbance. We are aware of the Regent Honeyeater, the Swift Parrot, and the swampy gum woodland. I'm sure there's a larger number of species yet to bring up in your EIS. But our impacts are quite minimal due to the size, it all seems quite reasonable.

The greenhouse gasses, I'll just throw a number at you, we are probably going to be emitting 100,000 tonnes of CO₂ a year which equates to about 600 hectares of forest that will sequester which would sequester that amount of carbon away. I'm not sure that is a scale, but its significantly less than other forms of thermal generation, mostly due to our peaking nature, but that's a bit of a guide.

For gas power stations, noise is normally a critical issue, particularly in regional areas. Dean mentioned at the start this is an unusual opportunity here to buy land which allows us to have a sufficient buffer to mitigate that and also specify equipment so that residences, I believe the closest is 1.2 kilometres away, will be well within the noise criteria. I've got quite a few scars myself from quite a few power plants around Australia, but I think this one we've got an unusually good opportunity for it to be a good outcome.

Last one on the slide is contamination, and I should really open the floor to the GHD guys on that. For contamination we are going to follow closely Hydro and McCloy's site audit assessment by the EPA accredited site auditors and that's the basis on which we'll be acquiring the site, is that those statements are in place for subsequent industrial use. So we're not expecting to have to do significant remediation ourselves, but we will always be monitoring it over the construction period. That's a very quick and dirty outline. Any questions or insights – they're most welcome?

DT: We'll keep ripping through these, I think Ange we'll leave these slides with those on the call so you can read through them at your own leisure. We are looking at 600 direct construction jobs: 1200 indirect. \$800M investment.

That of course isn't 600 for the entire trip, it does ramp up, peak than ramp down. Then there is ongoing employment for the power station and I will just say this all include the need for the pipeline from the Jemena trunk to our power station so we've included those numbers in what we've written there.

I think we'll wrap up there to allow a couple of minutes for questions if there are any. But like I said, we can send these slides over, so you've got them and if we come back to one of these group meetings you might have some questions there.

MU: Thanks Dean, thanks Ian, thanks Ange. We will ask for questions just unmute yourself and fire away. I think there will be some.

RA: I have a question, just briefly you talked about the 1.2 kilometre distance for the noise barrier. I didn't realise that these gas power stations were so noisy. Can you explain a bit more about what the intention was? I know it's a big site, I know we don't want to go in once sense to sterilise it for future use.

DT: I can help, I heard it. The 1.2-kilometre distance is the distance between our power station to the closest house, it's certainly not how far the noise travels. The map on slide six which was just basically those boxes one and two. The reason we purchased such a large site under box two was, that is the extent of the noise footprint we have to manage. It certainly doesn't get out to that 1.2 kilometres, it might have just been a misunderstanding.

MU: So, its noise to beyond a certain level, beyond a level that needs to be managed?

DT: Yeah that's right. It's all very much legislated. Ian said he's has some scars; the legislation helps you and also doesn't help you in different ways. The one that we worry the most about is low frequency noise, and you have to worry about that under different wind conditions and wind directions. All the studies end up being fairly technical, and because Snowy has had experience mainly in Melbourne and around the place, the guys who built Colongra Delta had to deal with it as well, were better off erring on the side of conservatism and buying more land than we need. And that's what we're certainly trying to do.

DG: I'm, just going to make a comment Michael, I know that even when the smelter was running and even though you really didn't see it from Kurri, and I live in Kurri, that in midwinter on certain morning the acoustics sounded like the smelter was in your backyard. Just be aware that there are certain things in summer you couldn't hear, but the electricity hum mid-winter. I don't know what the atmospheric conditions were but every year it always

GOOD FOR PRICES, GOOD FOR JOBS

- The project will supplement Snowy Hydro's generation portfolio with dispatchable capacity
- Will fill the gap in electricity demand following retirement of Liddell Power Station (reducing NSW's electricity supply by around 13%)
- Will generate an immediate 40 to 50 jobs, ramping up to 250 during construction (14 to 15 month construction program); 35 jobs during commissioning; an average of 10 additional workforce jobs for maintenance and projects; 30 to 40 electrical connection jobs.
- Additional 50 to 250 jobs gas connection jobs during construction and 40 jobs during commissioning over approximate 18 month construction program.

IN THE HUNTER REGION

600 direct construction jobs

1200 indirect employment opportunities

GOOD FOR PRICES, GOOD FOR JOBS

Supports Cessnock City Council's Strategic Plan to encourage more industry for job creation.

Diversify businesses and local economy by offsetting the reduction in coal mining employment.

Investment in local energy sources supports Australian and NSW governments' energy policies. I.e., 'Ensuring affordable, reliable and secure electricity supply.'

Proposal build efficiency and reliability into the network without generating any upward pressure on wholesale gas prices, and therefore causing any increases to retail energy prices.

\$800m investment

IN THE HUNTER ECONOMY

The expansion of the energy supply market is

1 OF THE 10 critical drivers to help NSW businesses recover post-COVID-19

Source: NCR Research Track on Track, July 2020

PROJECT SITE MAP

Two turbines & stacks, with a group of buildings and tanks for diesel & water storage

Surrounding industrial buildings are expected as the industrial estate is built

Stack height 36m
Stack diameter 10m
Plant footprint 6.6ha (300m x 220m)





happened. I don't know how noisy your plant is going to be, but just be aware that there is some funny acoustics that do occur.

IS: Most certainly. We're charged with taking account of all those things. I think what would've happened in that instance is a temperature inversion with a light wind towards Kurri. So, we have to model the noise emissions in those situations, so hopefully we should have those instances covered. We'll feed that back to our noise specialists to make sure that's addressed.

DG: The footprint, how much industrial land are you taking up in the zone? The plant itself and its footprint seems remarkably small, so are you taking the whole site? The footprint of the smelter.

RB: No, that's it. I'll answer that. What you see in the box there is what Snowy intend to acquire.

DG: Ok, so the rest will still be as per the plans we've seen.

RB: That's correct. I'll add one thing to this, which is that Hydro are one step removed from this process, obviously we are helping the Snowy guys out and get a fantastic outcome for the site. But our arrangements with McCloy Stevens are still on foot, and its essentially an arrangement directly between Snowy and McCloy Stevens that is facilitating this.

DG: Ok, gotcha.

TT: Is this fairly certain to go ahead or is it waiting till April to see what will happen to the other generators?

DT: If you ask me personally, and I said the same for Snowy 2.0, you would've bet against it. But more along the company line, our job for Snowy Hydro and for our shareholder is to be there ready, willing, and able to deliver a power station should the private sector not turn up. As you pointed to, that 1st of April deadline as laid down by the federal shareholder Angus Taylor in particular, is what we're aiming for.

TT: So at this stage pushing ahead as if it will happen, but there is no certainty until the 1st of April.

DT: That's right.

TT: Ok, that's one question. The other is on these publications you've put out there is a conflict in numbers. In one part of the publication it talks about 600 direct construction jobs and in another part, it talks about 250. And likewise, and this is in the same publication that was sent to us, in another it talks about 10 jobs during operations and in another page, it talks about 20, so there are some conflicts in this publication that have been put out. Another its \$610M – costs - and another place it says \$800M?



DT: Apologies for the confusion, one is for the power station, and one includes the pipeline, the \$610M vs the \$800M.

TT: Ah ok.

DT: You're right, we've been in a tight timetable to get these materials together, we can be clearer on that.

TT: How much impact would the proposed world's biggest battery have on this? Is it likely to affect it?

DT: No, that proposed battery is by a group called CP Energy, I've not heard of them before, but that doesn't necessarily mean much. We know the HEZ very well, we've got a power station down there. It's an extremely tricky part of the territory, that land that was developed as the Hunter Economic Zone is basically overgrown, and depending on who you speak to, we don't know if it will go ahead.

The battery was supposed to use solar panels which go on buildings rooves and also draw power from the network. The wires that go past there are the 330 kV network. They could also try and tap into the 120 kV network as well. The thing with a battery into a 330 kV network is you're competing with Bayswater and the big coal fired power stations on that high voltage network. Because Kurri is on the 132 kV network and is uniquely that side of the Hunter Load Centre, our power station, from an electrical flows and technical perspective, won't compete. I'll give you a fun fact, four our 100 MW solar farm down in South Australia, round figures, there are 400,000 solar panels. So that's 4 million panels to get yourself to 1200. That's a lot of buildings and I don't think HEZ is that big. So, they've got to get their power from somewhere, haven't spoken to key stakeholders and they don't have their funding lined up. Whilst we don't try and make too much comment about other people's projects, it seems embryonic to me.

TT: The other question is talking about HEZ, why are you suddenly firing up recommissioning the 28 MW diesel generators out there?

DT: I wouldn't say it sudden from my perspective. Might look like that from the outside-in. We've been throwing money at that development and trying to reconnect that for quite some time. We just think it's good for system security to have every megawatt available for the future NEM and the capacity shortfalls that are likely to come.

TT: Ok

MU: Right, I'll just call for any other urgent questions.

RA: One last quick question please.



MU: Sure, go ahead Robert.

RA: You talked about this being a peak gas plant, how long does it take to fire them up?

DT: If it's a cold start, Ian, I think it's within 10 minutes?

IS: Our gas stations down south, that's their speed, but this is quite a large unit, so up to 20 minutes would be a typical start time. The NEM is bringing in some new rules for dispatch which operates around a 5-minute block which essentially means everyone is looking at ways to try and start it faster. There are two things about that for this power station, we are looking to improve the start sequence, I think it would be around 10 to 15 minutes as a fast start sequence. But also, the units have a very large megawatt unit, 300 to 350, so even if you get a small percentage of a unit on you've got quite a lot of power from it already. They start very quickly. Hydro starts the fastest, then gas plants start the second fastest in the electricity market. And sorry, batteries of course are in there.

MU: My understanding is that you would start these up to take advantage of good pricing and so on of course, and you would do it under two situations. One being you know there is peak load coming, such as in February when everyone wants to turn their air-conditioning on, and you haven't got enough general power within the NEM to cope with that. The second one being, another unit somewhere else, another power generator somewhere else, falls over for some reason and this jumps into the breach. Is that a fair assessment?

DT: Pretty much. The beauty of the Snowy portfolio is it can start hydro as and when needed, effectively. Taking into account those start times on the gas we may even start gas ahead of an afternoon peak, to conserve our hydro and conserve our water. That's what happened on February 14, 2018 I think it was when it was a really hot day. Might have been a couple of years earlier sorry. We'll play around with that, but it's certainly to be able to manage the NSW node and keep the lights on. You don't have unlimited amounts of water to throw down the hill, so gas goes in either side. Then the future NEM looks like more coal unreliability.

Lately we're seeing Victorian plants which operate on brown coal their inability to even ramp up and down is bad for Victoria. They're lucky they had a mild summer. But in NSW, black coal you can ramp up and down more usefully. The lack of reliability that is creeping in at Liddell, Vales [Point] and recently Eraring, Piper and Bayswater seem to be going ok, we can see exactly of your two scenarios, plant failure or unit failure, and this jumps into fill the breach.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH AND HAVE YOUR SAY

You can also get in touch with us directly by:
EMAIL: communityconsultation@hunterpowerproject.com.au
PHONE: 1800 570 529

We will host a series of information sessions in the local community. Please visit hunterpowerproject.com.au for more information and to find out when and where these sessions will occur.

Further information can also be found at NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment dpie.nsw.gov.au



AG: Can I ask, your pipelines, where are you getting your gas from? Is it the Queensland one, going through Narrabri?

DT: That's too long dated and speculative for us, we'd love for greater gas distribution and diversification of gas and pipelines. But for our timelines we can't rely on it, so we'll be using the Jemena trunk, the Sydney to of Newcastle trunk. It's almost precisely the same set up as Colongra. So we burn the gas in the lateral pressurised vessel and buy the gas off the Sydney short term market.

AG: So where does that pipeline hook in?

DT: We've got I think seven options at the moment, and we don't know. We're working through that and the EIS for the pipeline will be separate from the power station, so we need to be mindful of that. Ange will be running the communications across both, so you'll get the same message and you can come back to the same people. That route selection isn't settled yet and we have a lot of community engagement and all those sorts of things to go through on the pipeline.

MU: Well thank you very much for that. I will wrap it there, Ange, we've sent through some information about the community working group, there is the email address and phone number there. Is there any final you'd like to say about the consultation process before I move on?

AF: No, thanks Michael, I've noticed some very familiar names on your group that have already got in contact with me, so that's great. We'll hopefully see them all next week so look out for your inbox for some details from me. I'm in awe, such a committed group meeting so many times that's fantastic.

MU: They are, even without the lollies. We met the first 30 odd meetings with lollies at the table, but we've kept going even without those, so they certainly do deserve praise.

Thank you very much Ian, Dean and Angela for that presentation, as it progresses, we may well get back in touch with you and ask if you would give us an update at some point in time.

If there are any questions from the CRG members that come through as a result of this presentation, I might collate them and send them to you and then we can feedback that way, that'd be great. Thank you very much and you can go and enjoy your evening and we'll move onto the second fiddle now, Shaun, for the approval of our project. Once again, thanks Dean, thanks Ian, thanks Angela.

Alright, I take it Andrew and/or Richard have control of the slides so now we can talk to Shaun.

6 Remediation approval

RB: We're not going to talk to Shaun yet

MU: Are you going to bathe in glory first?

RB: I am going to, absolutely. Like Michael indicated we may have thought this was impossible sometimes over the last seven or eight years, but it's done. Andrew and I had a first for the both of us. On the 23rd of December we both shared a beer at work, and we've never done that before ever, and it was very much deserved and earned on our team's perspective of getting this across the line. The project is now approved. Now obviously that means, what then, and what does that approval look like.

I'll hand over to Shaun shortly and he will get into some of that nitty gritty but I thought it would be important to set the scene a little bit about what some of the key features of the approval are. I wouldn't call it necessarily, I won't say it's not normal, but there are some special features and some of these factors are what contributed to that long drawn out process. So, I think, I hope this give Hydro, the consent authority and the community, comfort about the project going forward and I'll just talk about some of these key matters.

The project itself will be overseen by a range of independent auditors and engineers to ensure that the remediation and construction of the cell is done in accordance with the approved project and the approved design. The NSW government will take ownership of the cell, part of the approval is putting in place a voluntary planning agreement which is effectively a contract between Hydro and the state government that specifies a range of conditions that mean that in a minimum of five years the cell will transfer to the state government. The state government has an entity called the Waste Asset Management Corporation and their function essentially is to manage state-owned waste assets as it stands. That's landfills, and that probably doesn't include active ones, but certainly historical landfills, other containment cells and I'd say the most relevant recent example of WAMC acquisition is the Pasmenco Cell. That is the entity that will ultimately own the Pasmenco Cell. At the moment it's owned through HCCDC, but when HCCDC finish the works around Boolaroo and Cockle Creek precinct ownership it will move to WAMC ownership. So as I said there are a number of conditions around that transfer, the main focus on those conditions are ensuring that the cell is constructed appropriately and performing as expected, and the other one is the payment of a monetary contribution which is effectively Hydro funding the lifetime management of the cell. That has been calculated as 6.5 million dollars and that's the money that will go to the state government on that transfer. The other aspect of the



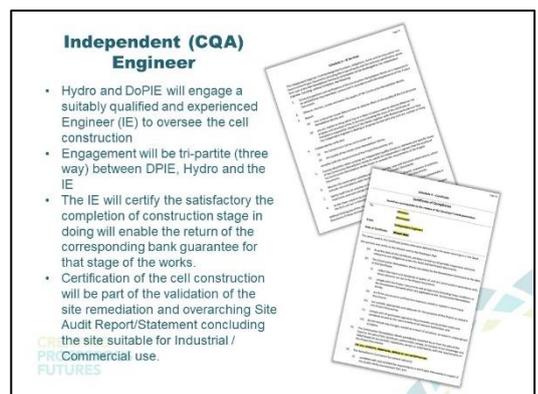
approval is that we are required, or have been required, to provide financial security against the cost of the project. So, we've put in place bank guarantees totalling 30 million dollars. The state government has those bank guarantees now and as the projects completed, they will be returning those bank guarantees to us. The purpose begin that is, I guess a belts and braces approach, in that they didn't want to be in a situation where they approve the project and that for some reason we were for some reason unable to complete the project. There was a sufficient financial guarantee in place for someone else to finish the project. That has never been our intent and is not our intent, but that's there just in case. Once again, belts and braces.

So the VPA is a critical part of the approval process and as we'll read out a few times all of this information is available both at, actually I didn't even put a side in the, Michael you can talk about that later. There's a new website we have for the project, but it's also on the State Government Major Projects planning portal. All of these documents are available for anyone to review.

The VPA has been signed by us, it's still yet to go through the opposite side of things. It goes through a 28-day notification period and then will be signed off by the minister. There may be some slight amendments to that but don't expect any.



One of the important parts we are currently focused on in regards to the VPA is that there's a selection of independent assessors if you like, or independent auditors, required to oversee aspects of the project and the VPA specifies that we are required to engage an independent construction quality assurance engineer. That engagement will be a tripartite arrangement, it will be an engagement between ourselves, the State Government and the Engineer, and within that agreement the engineer is required to oversee the construction of the cell and to periodically provide certification that the cell is being constructed in accordance with the approved design. Those periodic certifications align with the bank guarantees and the stages with the bank guarantees and also is the trigger for the portion of the bank guarantees to be returned.



For example, the first phase of the project s focussed on the set up of the project, excavation of the cell, none of the construction process, all the project preliminaries and infrastructure. That has a certain value attached to it, and the auditor will, when that's completed, provide certification to the Department and Hydro when it is completed to say that it has been completed in accordance with the approval and then the Department will return that security to us. The other key part of what they will provided through the process is a critical input to the overall site validation.

We are still required to have an overarching site audit report and statement from the NSW EPA accredited auditor that says that the site has been remediated and is suitable for the proposed industrial and commercial use and an input into that is the validation that the contaminated material and capped waste stockpile and the like, have been placed into the cell and that the cell has been constructed according to the approved design. That's obviously an output from the independent engineer.

So overall, there is multiple layers of oversight and security, financial security and quality security built into this process. I think overall, we are very happy with the approval, obviously very happy to get on with it. But very happy with the commitment and the contributions being made by not only the Government in terms of providing their ability to take on the cell in the future as well as all of the key players in the approval process. That's a very high-level view of it, when Shaun talks through the next few slides, he will explain in quite a bit more detail about what some of those requirements are within the actual project approval. I'll hand over to you Shaun and I'll be back a bit later.

7 Conditions of consent

ST: There are a few familiar faces in the room and a few new people so obviously I'll introduce myself. Shaun Taylor from Ramboll and we've been working with Richard, Andrew, Kerry and the team since 2012, in the initial investigations and through to where we are now. I've been working on the project since 2013, we were looking at the remediation options through to looking after the EIS and getting approval.

What I'll focus on today is giving the highlights, the key elements of that development consent and how the environmental management conditions of that consent will be implemented. But also, which Richard touched on, how compliance will be implemented from within the team and other external parties but also introduce a modification to the project which is an onsite temporary water treatment plant. I'll just talk through that.

So most of you I'm sure are aware of what the project would make up, State Significant Development 6666 and what it actually is. But just a reminder, it's the remediation of the smelter site with excavation of the onsite contaminated areas, as you're aware there are a few areas contaminated by predominantly hydrocarbons that need to be excavated. Excavation and treatment of the capped waste stockpile material and all those to be placed into the containment cell. Then the management of the groundwater plume from the capped waste stockpile which would be managed primarily by removing the capped waste stockpile.

Development Consent and Environmental Management

- Outline of the development consent
- Environmental management implementation
- Environmental management compliance
- Proposed project modification: on site temporary water treatment plant

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Outline of development consent

Development consent was granted for State Significant Development (SSD) No. 6666 on 23 December 2020 for:

- *Remediation of the former Hydro Kurri Kurri Aluminium Smelter site including:
- excavation of onsite contaminated areas
 - excavation and treatment of Capped Waste Stockpile (CWS) material
 - construction of a purpose-built containment cell
 - placement of contaminated materials in the containment cell
 - treatment of contaminated groundwater plume originating from the CWS
 - ongoing management of the containment cell in perpetuity*

Available at:
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/11486> (DPIE website) or

<https://regrowthkurrikurri.com.au/statutory-information/> (Project website)

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Then the ongoing management of the containment cell in perpetuity. Richard has just talked about how that will be done. We've talked about where project documents will be.

Sorry Michael if I've stolen your thunder about the project web page. There are two places where you can get project documents. I'm sure you'll be able to use this link. There is the Department of Planning's planning portal and the Hydro project page in that. We have submitted documents to the Department, and they are making documents publicly available. There is also the ReGrowth Kurri Kurri website.

This is probably not new to all of you, but this is actually extracted from the development consent showing key elements of what has been approved. One of the key elements going forward will be the containment cell in the north west, the clay borrow pit, the haul road between it and the Capped Waste Stockpile. The gypsum, that also has to be applied to that material in the gypsum application area, will be just when the trucks are loaded before it goes up to the containment cell.

We have 90 conditions and over 280 sub-conditions to those that apply to the work and ongoing management of the containment cell, so how we will deal with it in perpetuity. There are a range of types of conditions, but the main ones are the administrative requirements. We are dealing with a government department so there is a lot of administration and bureaucracy there. There are also specific environmental management requirements such as some specific measures around noise; soil; the containment cell (how it's to be constructed and how we will report it); the requirement for environmental management documents which we will go through on subsequent slides, and the requirements regarding compliance performance reporting and auditing: both, as I said, within the team, but also external parties. Not that we're expecting or planning on any, but there are requirements around reporting and management of incidents and non-compliance. Michael has obviously got an ongoing role in community engagement providing access to the project information.

ST: Yeah, I know if off by heart. I was going to touch on it, I was quite jealous when I heard Ian, Dean and Angela talk about their approval process and their time frame they were looking at: my daughter was born just after we submitted the request for the SEARS and now she's about to start into Year 1. It's been quite a long process.

One of the key elements on how the environment is going to be protected by the works is through the *Remediation Works Environmental Management Plan*. That plan is structured to address a whole range of requirements. Its sets the foundation, describes the project to be managed, describes Hydro's



Outline of development consent

- 90 conditions and over 280 sub-conditions applying to the remediation works and ongoing management of the containment cell
- Conditions relate to:
 - Administrative requirements
 - Specific environmental management requirement
 - Environmental management documents
 - Environmental performance compliance reporting and auditing
 - Incident and non-compliance reporting and management
 - Community engagement and access to project information

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objectives in terms of environmental management and protection, but then identifies who's responsible in implementing the plan and various elements of that. Then it touches on the management measures in the specialist plans and how to monitor and report on its performance, and what happens if there is an incident or non-compliance. The development consent required the *Remediation Works Environmental Management Plan* to also have several specialist plans, so that includes a *Containment Cell Management Plan* which is largely made up of the containment cell design, how its constructed, and pulls together the key elements of environmental management for the construction of the cell.

Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, so that's a plan showing where sediment fencing, hay bales, sediment basins and the like will be installed and constructed. We're working at a big construction site, so dust management is a key element and also with the capped waste stockpile managing the dust from that and its contaminants are important and so the *Air Quality Management Plan* is an integral part of the EMP.

The *Biodiversity Management Plan*, we do have a small amount of vegetation we have to clear so that talks about how that is meant to be done and also what doesn't have to be cleared and how that will be protected.

Health and Safety Plan, obviously that's important in any construction project, but when you're dealing with contaminants it is especially important. And finally, the *Community Engagement Plan*. So again, these management plans are available on the Department's website and the Project website.

While these specialist plans weren't necessarily required by the Department, we saw them as quite important and warranting their own management plans. *Traffic Management Plan*, making sure that traffic stick to designated routes and minimise impacts on local traffic.

Noise and vibration, it's a large construction project and while there is some distance to nearby residents, we want to make sure that potential impacts are minimised.

Soil and Water Management Plan, it's a major earthworks construction project and also, we are dealing with contaminants so that is an important plan. *Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan*, we did have a named site and sites nearby to manage. *Waste Management Plan*, obviously this project in itself is a waste management project as well as an earthworks project.

Energy Efficiency Plan and lastly and quite importantly a *Pollution Incident and Emergency Response Management Plan*. So, as I said, we're not expecting or wanting incidents or non-

Remediation environmental management implementation

- Condition C2 requires preparation of a Remediation Works Environmental Management Plan (RWEMP) which also includes:
 - Containment Cell Management Plan
 - Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
 - Air Quality Management Plan
 - Biodiversity Management Plan
 - Health and Safety Plan
 - Community Engagement Plan
- Management Plans are also available on the DPIE website and the Project website

Remediation environmental management implementation

- In addition to the required plans, Ramboll's RWEMP includes:
 - Traffic Management Plan
 - Noise and Vibration Management Plan
 - Soil and Water Management Plan
 - Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan
 - Waste Management Plan
 - Energy Efficiency Plan
 - Pollution Incident and Emergence Response Management Plan

compliances, but having the plan in place to respond to them if they occur.

I think I just went though that previously so you could probably move on from that one.

Compliance. So, it's one thing to have the management plans in place, but how is it going to be ensured that it is happening.

Just from the actual development consent conditions, the development requires Hydro to undertake compliance tracking and reporting throughout the life of the remediation project.

Hydro will have to do annual reporting to the Department, which also becomes publicly available, but there also independent environmental audits. An independent auditor will come in who's representing the Department and will undertake a review of our compliance with development consent conditions. Hydro will continue to undertake their monthly dust monitoring which Kerry has been looking after. Likewise with the surface water monitoring.

There will be weekly environmental inspections by Hydro and the contractor Daracon, to ensure erosion and sed controls are in place and if anything needs to be improved it will be. Monthly compliance audits combined with the environmental inspections and monitoring results, again having a look over the site to make sure on a monthly basis that the project is continuing to comply. Hydro will publish a regular environmental performance report on the website.

Just to add to what was on the slide, that was about the consent conditions, but as Richard touched on, there a number of other layers about how environmental compliance will be implemented. Richard obviously when through a bit of detail about the independent engineer under the Voluntary Planning Agreement.

Ramboll will also be assisting with the validation of the remediation works. So, soil sampling, where contaminants have been removed, taking samples to ensure they have been removed and the site is suitable. That work is then overseen by the EPA accredited Independent Site Auditor and ultimately who will sign off on the completion of the remediation through the Site Audit Statement.

The project has evolved since 2014, and one of the key things for Hydro and the project is to manage the leachate and water from the project site. When the capped waste stockpile is opened, there will be leachate in the stockpile and also when it rains it comes into contact with the contaminated material and generate leachate and dirty water.

Remediation environmental management implementation

RWEMP and the supporting plans address the following:

- The roles and responsibilities for implementing the plan
- The specific management measures to be implemented
- How implementation and environmental performance will be assessed
- Review and improvement process
- Incident and non-compliance response and management

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Remediation environmental management compliance

- Development consent requires the following:
 - Compliance Tracking Reporting
 - Independent Environmental Audits
- Hydro will also undertake:
 - Continued monthly dust monitoring
 - Continued monthly surface water monitoring
 - Weekly environmental inspections
 - Monthly Compliance Audits
- Hydro will publish a regular Environmental Performance Reports to the project website

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The EIS initially had identified an onsite temporary water treatment plant to managing leachate and water from those remediation areas. Through the development of the design for the containment cell, it was originally identified that offsite treatment would be the preferred option but retaining that treatment plant as a potential option to be brought in as required. Subsequent to review and given the time since that response to submissions have been prepared, there's been further review of that and we've returned to the thought that an onsite temporary water treatment plant is the preferred option for when its required. Next slide.

The main reason for that is it provides greater certainty for leachate management during the works. It provides that extra option, to previously, when we were looking at taking it all offsite. In this way it provides greater control over the leachate management and control on site. So Daracon, the remediation contractor, has direct management over that treatment plant. But it would be complemented by the offsite treatment facilities which would supplement the onsite treatment when its required when there is excess rainfall or maintenance is required on the treatment plant. Obviously, it reduces the truck movements compared to the offsite being the primary option, and another fact is it is actually a lower cost compared to off-site treatment up until the point that the leachate volumes drop to lower levels. The key thing to highlight is it is only during the remediation works themselves I think I'll grab the next slide sorry, I'm jumping a little ahead of myself.

I'll jump to the last point that it's forecast to run approximately 12 months after the completion of cell capping. At that time the modelling shows the leachate will be at sufficient levels of generation that the onsite treatment plant is not economically viable or required and that ultimately we will rarely require a truck to come and pump out the leachate from the containment cell.

I'll just go back to the top now. So, the Onsite Temporary Water Treatment System, the plant itself, is comprised of the treatment plant adjacent to the capped waste stockpile. And obviously there are pipelines and infrastructure connecting the treatment plant up to the containment cell with the other storage dams. As I mention there, construction of a pipeline from the containment cell leachate storage dam to the Temporary Water Treatment Plant.

Operation and ongoing maintenance of system. The treated water will be discharged into the existing smelter water management system, so into each surge pond which would be near where the water treatment plant is. Next slide.

It's pretty small scale but you can see that represents how small scale the treatment plant is. The key elements are that there will be leachate storage pond up near the containment cell under

Proposed Project modification: onsite temporary water treatment plant

- EIS initially identified an onsite temporary water treatment plant (TWTP) for managing leachate and water from remediation areas
- Response to Submissions revised project to identify transport for offsite treatment as the preferred option, but retaining a TWTP option
- Further review since submission of the RtS concluded a TWTP is the preferred option, with off site treatment as an option

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Benefits of onsite treatment

- Provides greater certainty for leachate management during the remediation activities by expanding the treatment options
- Provides an on site option over which Daracon has direct management, complemented by off site treatment facilities
- Reduces the number of truck movements compared to off site being the primary option
- Lower cost compared with off-site treatment up until the point that the leachate volumes drop to lower levels

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Key elements of the TWTP

- Onsite Temporary Water Treatment System comprised of:
 - Onsite TWTP adjacent to the Capped Waste Stockpile
 - Associated pipelines and infrastructure
- Construction of a pipeline from the Containment Cell leachate storage dam to the TWTP
- Operation and ongoing maintenance of the Temporary Water Treatment System
- Discharge of treated water to the existing Smelter water management system
- Decommissioning of the Temporary Water Treatment System when leachate generation rates make the offsite treatment more suitable (forecast to be approximately 12months after cell capping).

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construction, a pipeline connecting that through to another storage dam which is adjacent to the treatment plant itself and then a small pipeline which discharges into the east surge pond, which will connect through to the north dam and makes it part of the existing water management system for the smelter.

We are currently going through a process, if you go to the next slide, with the Department of Planning which is what's called a modification to the development consent. We are awaiting the SEARS that specifically address that treatment plant. That is supported by a Statement of Environmental Effects, which we have already prepared, and it's largely looking at what is the difference of having that onsite treatment plant compared to the off-site treatment. The Department of Planning have reached out to the EPA, Cessnock Council and other agencies for input into those SEARS specifically for the treatment plant. We are expecting to get those early next week and will be finalising that Statement of Environmental Effects soon after to get that submitted to the Department. Once that's approved the development consent conditions will be amended accordingly though I would expect minimal change to the management requirements under the consent conditions, it would be more so how the development consent describes the project. And I think that's my slides.

8 Remediation update

AW: Any questions for Shaun before I continue on my slides?

DG: Sorry Shaun, back on the site plan slide, is the green line going to be crossing the footprint of the power station?

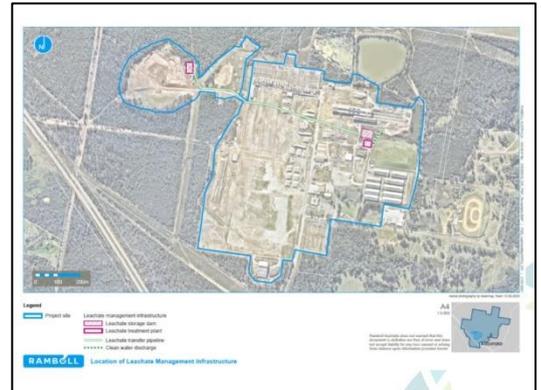
RB: I'll answer that if you like. No, it won't be. It was a bit unclear from the Snowy slides Darrin but the large footprint they had, the southern part of that is their noise buffer. So the extent of the actual power station itself runs just to the north of where that road traverses the creek, it's a box that sits to the north and really one of the things which we are insistent on, is that the arrangements that are in place between McCloy Stevens and Snowy Hydro do not interfere with our remediation in any way.

DG: Thanks.

AW: Darrin, we have a slide later on that shows the gas power plant overlaid over our site, so you get a much better idea of the layout. So, we've got our haul road shown on that slide, that's coming up on a few slides time.

DG: Thanks Andrew.

MU: Any other questions for Shaun?



TWTP approval process

- Modification to the development consent for SSD 6666
- Hydro awaiting SEARs specifically for the TWTP, prepared in consultation with the EPA and other agencies
- Hydro has prepared a draft Statement of Environmental Effects, to be finalised on receipt of the SEARs and submitted to DPIE for approval

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AW: Ok, now that we have the approval, we've given Daracon the go ahead, we've awarded Separable Portion 2 of the contract and that's comprised of four sub parts. Part 1 is project infrastructure, which is like the Aboriginal Heritage Item, the pre-veg clearance survey, the veg clearance, the fauna protection fence and the erosion and sediment controls. So Daracon are working on all those things now. Containment Cell Stage 1 is building the base of the Cell with the primary and secondary barrier which is all the geosynthetic liners and the leachate collection system, ready to receive the waste. That has to be signed off by the independent engineer which we talked about earlier. Part 3 is the actual remediation of the remaining contaminated areas on site which is mainly the capped waste stockpile and a few other areas. Transferring that material into the cell, and the way that the cell is filled is also quite important so the independent engineer will be also be overseeing how the cell will be filled. Part 4 is the final completion and capping of the cell.

MU: Andrew sorry mate, I might just pause for a second and say thank you to Shaun, I'm not sure if Shaun's family is waiting to have dinner with him or not. If you need an opportunity to bail Shaun you can take that. Thank you for your presentation and if there are any questions, we can give them to you or if you want to hang on and listen to the ongoing then that's up to you.

ST: I was going to listen in, thanks.

MU: Sure. Sorry Andrew, go ahead mate.

AW: I think I've talked though all those bullet points further down, they're the current activities that Daracon are working on.

I didn't mention the excavation, the excavation of the contamination cell footprint, that will be starting in a few weeks' time. They'll be bringing their main earthworks fleet in with a couple of scrapers and quite a few Moxy's and diggers and there's about 60,000 cubes of clay to be removed during that excavation. So, we are actually going to get Daracon to do a presentation at the next CRG which is the 22nd of April.

As I mentioned there as an Aboriginal Heritage Item that was identified a few years ago by our Archaeologist consultant from AECOM. We organised for him to come back along with a representative from Mindaribba and the item has been removed from site and taken by Mindaribba for safe keeping and they'll put it on display in their museum. Just a formality, we have to send a form to Heritage NSW, and we have to consult with the 34 Registered Aboriginal Parties that were involved back when we did the EIS. As long as everybody agrees with that course of action then that's what will happen. Just out of interest the artifact is actually, the description is it's a complete silicified tuff flake, with multiple scar platforms and 1-50% dorsal cortex. That's

Site Remediation

- Now that the Consent was received, Hydro has awarded Separable Portion 2 of the Contract to Daracon, this is comprised of:-
 - SP2 / Part 1 – Project Infrastructure
 - SP2 / Part 2 – Containment Cell Stage 1
 - SP2 / Part 3 – Site Remediation & Material Transfer
 - SP2 / Part 4 – Containment Cell Stage 2 & Completion
- Daracon will/has commenced preliminary activities from 27/1/21:-
 - Procurement of liner materials (including required MQA)
 - Further site establishment, including erosion and sediment controls
 - Preparation of the East-West haul road
 - Clearing and grubbing of the containment cell area
 - Fencing of the containment cell area
 - Excavation required for temporary stormwater and leachate detention basins including swale drains and rip rap installation
 - Leachate detention basin at the capped waste stockpile
 - Excavation of the containment cell footprint
 - Presentation by Daracon for the next CRG – 22nd Apr 21

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Site Remediation – Aboriginal Heritage



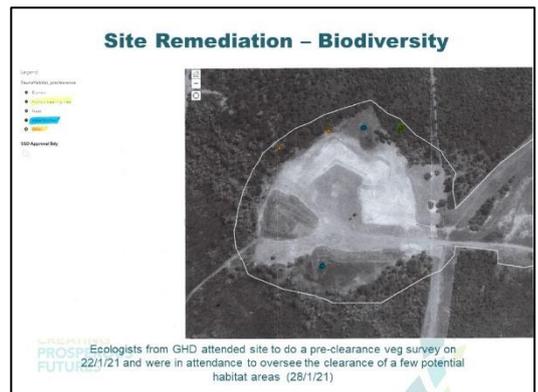
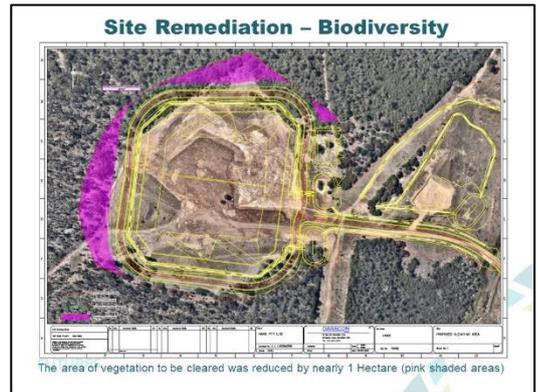
Hydro-IA35-15
Aboriginal heritage item identified by AECOM archaeologist in 2014 was removed from site for safekeeping by Mindaribba (27/1/21)

archaeologist talk but it's basically an offcut from a stone tool, it's a chip off a stone tool that would've been used for skinning animals and that sort of thing. So that was done on the 27th January basically the first day Daracon were on site.

The next stage of the works involved the veg pre-clearance survey and then the vegetation removal. Just out of interest we have reduced the amount of area to be cleared by about one hectare which is that pink shaded area, those three spots shown around the cell. That will save quite a bit of vegetation.

We had to get our ecologists from GHD out to do a veg pre-clearance survey and they identified a couple of habitat areas. One was a hollow bearing tree, I don't know if you can see my arrow but its up in the north-east corner, two water bodies which I've shown in blue, one to the north and one to the south, and two other habitat areas which were basically fallen trees which were identified as potential habitat areas for wildlife.

These are just a few photos, so this is the hollow bearing tree, close up on the right. The procedure in our Biodiversity Management Plan is you have to shake the tree with an excavator then wait 24 hours to give an animal or bird the opportunity to escape. Then the next day you shake it again, wait 30 minutes, and if nothing comes out then its ok to fell that tree.



These were the two potential habitat areas which were just fallen trees, but we didn't find anything in those areas either.



And finally, this is one of the two waterbodies, this is the one in the south which was actually a man-made dam. I believe when this area was used as a hobby farm it was just a dam which would've been used to water stock. What we had to do there was get Daracon to cut a drainage channel at the deepest point and allow the water to drain out and that way, if there were any frogs or snakes living in there that they would have a change to escape. We waited a week before we did anything further. There was nothing found in there.



So this aerial shot just shows the clearing happening on the southern side back on the 28th of January.

This is a little bit later on, the 2nd of February. We've now moved to the north side of the clay borrow pit. You can see that water body I was talking about on the right-hand side of the screen. That was still there at that time.

The other thing we had to do, we had a number of wells that were installed by both Ramboll and GHD as part of the investigative work that was done a few years ago from 2012-2016. And 13 out of the 16 wells had to be decommissioned as they were in the footprint of the cell. That involved bringing a drill rig onto site and removing the monument and the PVC tube which was quite long. Some of these wells were quite deep, up to 20 m deep, then re-drilling the hole and filling it with bentonite to make a good seal. We obviously don't want to have any contact with groundwater.

There were two wells on the upstream side of the groundwater flow, and one on the downstream side that are outside the fenced area (the construction boundary) and they can remain.

Over the last two weeks Daracon have had their fencing contractor in, putting in a fence which is about 1.8m high built to



the RMS standard which you see along most expressways these days like the Hunter Expressway and the M1. It consists of cyclone wire, stands 1.8m high, and also a 1m wide piece of mesh that's laid on the ground outside. Its pinned to the ground and clipped to the vertical piece of fence. That hasn't been done yet but will be done later, and that's to stop burrowing animals like wombats and rabbits. The fence is high enough to stop kangaroos getting into the cell. We don't want kangaroos getting into the leachate pond and drowning or getting in and damaging the liner materials. As you know they have quite sharp claws and could do a lot of damage.

This is a photo of the silt fence being installed. They just go around with a 'Dingo' mini loader. It's quite an efficient process. They dig a trench beforehand and bury the silt fence with some dirt. So that is all in preparation for excavations to start, and there will be a berm around the perimeter of the cell so any of the sediment running off that we don't want that running off and that's why we need a silt fence.

In this photo you can see four trees there with pink ribbons on them. The Daracon surveyor went around and marked out all the trees at the construction boundary. The fence is 5m inside the construction boundary. Those trees will remain and do not need to be cleared.

This an aerial shot that was taken yesterday morning with our drone. You can see the orange silt fence right around the perimeter and you can probably just make out the cyclone wire fence which is about halfway around. The posts are nearly finished. There will be a set of gates to get in and out. This will be locked outside of normal working hours because we don't want people getting in, or animals or people on motorbikes.

The gates will be installed soon. As I said the excavation will start in the next two weeks. You can see over on the right hand side, I don't know if you can see that, just this corner here, that's where the leachate pond is going to go and the entry to the cell is more or less where the track is. There will be two sediment basins, one on the left side and one on the right. There will be a perimeter drain around the cell during construction. That will drain into the sediment detention basins so that any sediment or silt settles out. There will be rip rap on the outlet side of those sediment basins. There will be another set of swales running down into the unnamed creek.



MU: I'll just jump in Andrew, and ask a question. Because this photograph is a great way to illustrate it. What sort of height are we talking about for the containment cell when it's finished?

AW: It'll be about 12 metres above natural ground level.

MU: Ok, so a lot of those trees would be taller than that? Or a similar sort of height?

AW: Yep, you won't be able to see it from the Hunter Expressway, which you can see the Hunter Expressway there in the background at the top of the screen, it won't be visible from there.

MU: Thank you

AW: Just out of interest this is the plan view showing the base of the cell. So just to explain what I was talking about, so the leachate pond is the rectangular shaped pond there. That's actually lined with HDPE liner, the same liner material that's used in the base of the cell. The two oval shaped sediment detention basins are shown, one to the south, one to the north of the access road. Then there is a third sediment basin which is to capture any sediment coming off the stockpiling area. Daracon will be using that stockpiling area to store construction materials like sand, gravel and if they need to import clean fill. Things like that.

So, there is a network of drainage around the perimeter of the cell that feeds into the basins. The sediment drops out and these swales run either side of the road, which runs into a table drain which discharges into the creek. This is the culvert which crosses the creek.

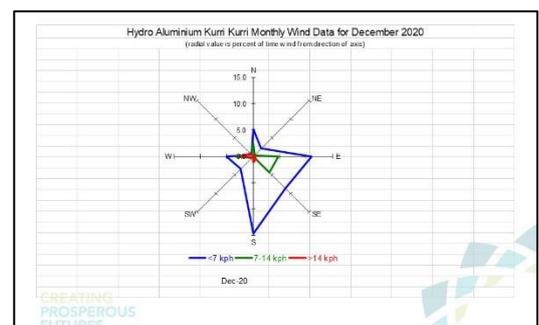
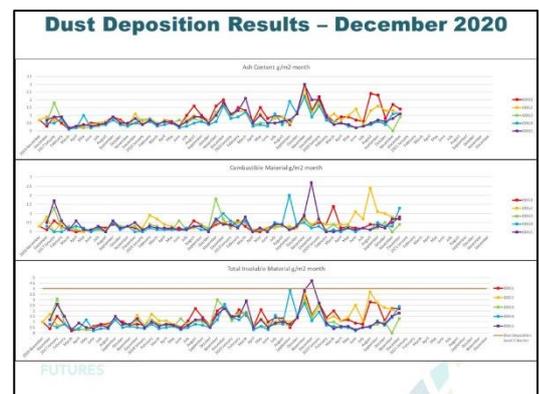
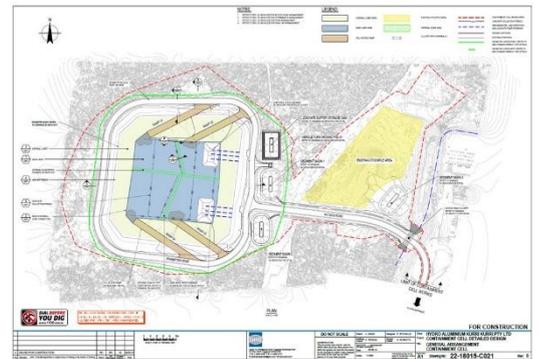
Just moving on, these are Kerry's dust deposition gauge results for December. Everything was under control for ash, combustibles and total insolubles, below the limit of 4g/m² per month.

The wind was mainly from the south to south east, which would affect locations 4 and 5 which were ok. We'll continue to do that sampling over the next 2 years while Daracon are building the cell and moving the waste.

That's all I had. Were there any questions of me before I hand back to Richard?

MU: Feel free to unmute yourself and jump in. Darrin?

DG: Just a comment more than anything. With the cell now coming to prominence and a lot of work being on it. It'd be a good time to have some graphics so when people ask what is happening and what is looked at. I know we know it backwards because we were part of the design process all the way through, but I'm just thinking it's like roads with council, it might have been on exhibition for the last two years but until you put the shovel in the ground nobody screams. So just having some visuals on what



we're building and how its laid out might be a good opportunity. As a thought, just putting it out there.

MU: Thanks Darrin. Any other comments?

AW: I think we could put some photographs up on our website perhaps, or some of our drawings. That aerial shot that we took with our drone, I was planning on taking that regularly. For every one of these meetings going forward you'll be able to see the progress of the construction taken from the same viewing point, which is east of the cell.

MU: Great.

DG: And even I was thinking the earlier ones, there are lots of people now engaged and taking more interest, so even the ones of the rubbers, the layers, of how it's being built. Not saying go in a build a thesis on it, just a photograph that shows what's been approved in a visual form that is readily accessible.

MU: Thank you. Shaun did you have a comment?

ST: Look, I was only going to suggest with Darrin it's a good idea. As we talked about in the earlier slides, they'll be the regular environmental performance reporting, and that may be a good place where we can have those progress photos in that report. Obviously, I'll talk with Andrew and Richard and the team, it's a good idea to capture that in that public space.

RB: I think Darrin, the intent might be that we will also keep up to date information, including that, the potential facts and figures if you like, sketches and the like, on the website. Michael's always in my ear about making sure that we've got that sort of information present on there so we'll make sure that in the circulation of the minutes you've got a link to that, and we'll look at that and make sure we've got some of those sketches and cross sections and the like in there. I'm not sure if there is anything at the moment,

MU: There's a couple but not much

RB: There is certainly plenty of stuff around but whether its front and centre or prominent is a different question. Probably also as I'm sort of segueing into my last couple of slides here I've just made a note to myself here we're moving into a different phase of the project and there was an opportunity or two I think in the past when we had CRG on site to have a look at some of the demo progress. I think as the remediation project progresses particularly when we start getting into the lining process and welding activities, it might be good for an excursion. We might be able to get up on site and have a look at some of the activities up there so you've got an understanding of what's involved in the placement and some of the construction of the liners and the like. I don't



expect that will be until the middle or later in the year, but that's something to keep in mind.

MU: We could feasibly tack that on, have an excursion first then go and sit somewhere assuming we're allowed to sit and so on to have the meeting. I've done that with other CCCs and CRGs.

RB: Yeah, we'll do something like that. There's not much in the way of infrastructure out there.

DG: Find somewhere to sit down?

MU: Yeah, I'm thinking McDonalds mate.

RB: Will Billy still own the pub by then?

MU: There's a good point.

DG: He's already sold it.

MU: Ok, so there's no other questions around that? We'll keep moving.

RB: Yep, let's keep going noting the time. So just the last couple of slides, more routine stuff. SPL recycling, you can see there we haven't really had a lot of activity in the last month or so. That was expected, the recycling contractor had other priorities that they were working on and we expected that lull, and we're now hoping that we're able to recommence those activities probably from the commencement in March. We'll have another low period in February. At this stage not any specific cause for concern. Next one Andrew.

9 Rezoning update

RB: This is one slide that represents a whole other range of stuff going on in the project. On the rezoning, I've just put three key points in there but Ian and Andrew you can have your two bobs worth if you like. The rezoning planning proposals were put on public exhibition, both Maitland and Cessnock, over January. That exhibition period is now completed. I don't think, I'm not very experienced with this, there was an overwhelming range of submissions. I think Cessnock had four and I don't know how many Maitland had, but there wasn't a lot. Regardless, the points will be noted and council will determine the appropriate course of response for those submissions. The key issues for us going forward still sit with Transport for NSW and we are working with them to understand what we need to do collectively to satisfy their concerns about impacts or otherwise from the development or the plan on the road network. We had a meeting with them this afternoon, which was reasonably fruitful, we've got a better understanding of some of the work they've been doing on main road 195 corridor and how that might translate to the site. But we'll



Rezoning

- Public exhibition completed
- Working with TfNSW to understand requirements to satisfy their Agency submission
- Biodiversity Certification Assessment Report (BCAR) has been with both CCC and MCC for the required 42 day pre submission consultation period. BCAR to be submitted to BCD next week

obviously be working with Transport and both councils on how to progress that.

The other key issues for the rezoning are around the bio-certification. We completed our draft bio-certification at the end of last year and there is a requirement that there is a 42 day consultation period with Council. Both Maitland and Cessnock have now completed that pre-submission consultation and provided feedback to using that feedback will be incorporated into the BCAR. We plan on submitting that next week to the Biodiversity Conservation Division of the Office of Environment and Heritage, I think they still are. So many names.

MU: I'll just check, Andrew Neil, you took yourself off mute, did you have a question mate.

AN: I was just pre-empting anything I need to say, but we're all good, cheers.

MU: Ok. Alright, very good. Thanks Richard.

RB: That's probably about it. Divestment, I think we heard enough about the McCloy-Stevens divestment. The main focus at the moment is about the Snowy Hydro site. I do know there are a couple of other interesting developments that they are working though at the moment. That's good, its encouraging. I remind our team that this is the reason we're doing this, ultimately attract activity back to the site and all the benefits that flow on, particularly back to the local community. It's all good, it's all coming together. Thank you.

10 CRG Q&A – CRG Members

MU: Alright, thank you. Are there any more questions to Richard about this part of it? Looks like you might be off Scott free there Richard. Any other questions in general? We'll go to questions from the community or Q & A. Alright, we'll expect that some people might be starting to talk about activity on site because its starting. You'll see Daracon around getting coffees in the main street I expect, and that sort of economic stimulus will start and then grow, which is great for the town. Any general questions around where we are up to?

11 General business

MU: Alright, what I'll do, I will share my screen and show you the website. If you need to depart it is fine, its now 7:43. What I'll say is that we're looking to host the next meeting on the 22nd of April, which is not the third but the fourth Thursday. It puts us away from the school holiday period and gives me the opportunity to have



the holiday I'm planning to take with my family on that prior week. If there are no issues with that, we will put that in for that period.

I'm just going to try and share my screen if I can, which has got the Kurri Kurri smelter remediation website. So, these are some of the illustrations we currently have on the site. Darrin you were mentioning that. This is part of the news item we have on the new website. I'll just take you back to there. This is the latest news section, we've got this illustrated piece there about liners and so on, you click on that and that's got the news item which shows the remediation approved.

We've also got this item here – Planning Proposals on Exhibition – they're no longer on exhibition so I'll have to change that. We've also got the various entities that are involved in the project. But there is a whole range of information there about the project. And I'll just mention to you your names are all in here under Community Reference Group, we've got a whole bunch of info. A lot of it has been copied from the Hydro website and we've just taken it over now to keep that hosted locally. We can be more responsive and change things on the fly.

We've got a section on Demolition and Remediation. I'll just take you down to the Statutory Information page, because it shows you where all of the management plans are. Monitoring data that's required, and under site remediation here is the environmental management plans, the determination replicated from the Department of planning website, the submissions and the EIS. Just under here, environmental management plans, we've got a whole range of those plans. You can look at those at your leisure. I'm sure Shaun will take a lot of delight in someone reading them and others, as there is a lot of work in those. Just so you can see all that, that's all there.

It's under regrowthkurrikurri.com.au and we've also got some photographs which is nice. There is another website called regrowthkurri.com.au and that is the McCloy-Stevens Group project which is the redevelopment project so just don't get those two confused. I'll leave it there.

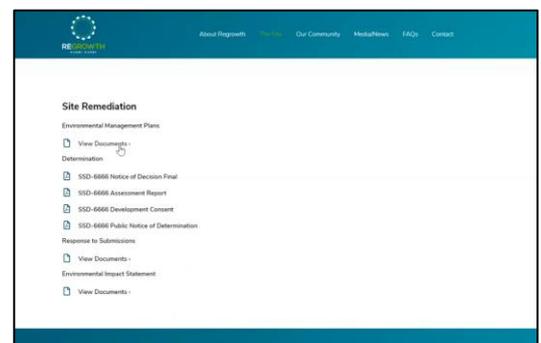
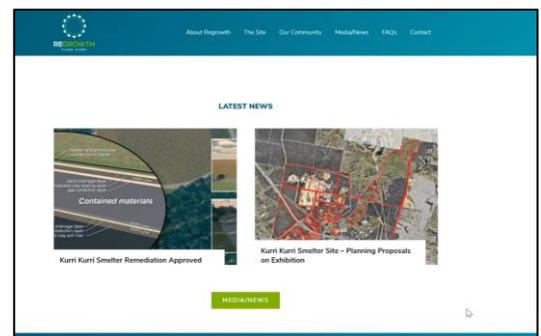
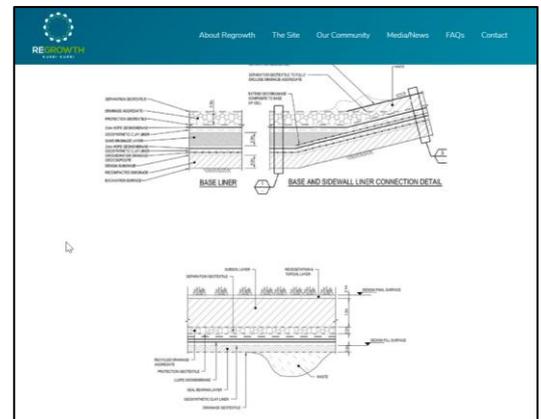
If there are no other comments or questions around the room we'll settle around that date, which will be the 22nd of April for that meeting. We'll get the minutes out to you in due course. Any other comments around the room?

TT: Will that meeting be a Teams meeting or on site?

MU: The next meeting?

TT: Yes

MU: What's your preference Toby?



TT: I'd like to go out on site, at least you're there.

MU: We were talking about having an excursion followed by a meeting. The discussion when Richard mentioned it was, we might wait until there is something to see around the development of the cell, Richard have you got any thoughts on that?

RB: I think the issues we're challenged with at the moment is the uncertainty with things like COVID. I know things are obviously approaching a new level or normality, we do have some capacity limitation in terms of meeting space and the like, so I think until maybe later in the year. We might just be better having a Teams meeting continuing.

MU: Alright, so at this point in time Toby, we'll plan to make it a Teams meeting. Things are opening up a little bit and we'll make it a "watch this space" with a commitment to, when we've got something happening on the ground out there, to bring people out there. I for one would like to have a look and see what's going on. We'll leave it as is for now and revisit at a later time.

TT; At the next meeting we'll know whether the power station is going to go ahead or not?

MU: We'll, you might be right. What was that date? The 30th of April. So, we won't, it will be just before that date.

TT: Wasn't it the 1st of April in the earlier part of the meeting? Isn't that what the Snowy Hydro guy said? I don't know what they said but I don't know whether it was at the start or the end of April.

MU: Alright, we'll check that.

SP: I think it says April 1st.

MU: Alright, thank you Sonya. The voice from the deep.

TT: That's what I heard. Is that correct?

MU: We'll double check that and put that in the minutes and check that's right, it was mentioned, so we better make sure that's right. We'll come back to you and let you know.

[NOTE: According to the website of the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, The Hon Angus Taylor MP.

*"To ensure we do not have a scenario without replacement, the Government is giving the private sector until the **end of April 2021** to reach final investment decisions on 1000 MW of dispatchable capacity, with a commitment for generation in time for summer 2023-24.*

However, if, by the end of April 2021, the private sector has not delivered on the target, the Government will take necessary steps to ensure the required dispatchable capacity is built.



To this end, Snowy Hydro Limited is developing options to build a gas generator in the Hunter Valley at Kurri Kurri should the market not deliver what consumers need.

<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/ensuring-affordable-reliable-and-secure-electricity-supply>]

TT: Ok

MU: Beauty, alright folks, thanks again. We had an extra-long meeting, a bumper edition with lots to talk about. Thank you, Shaun, and congratulations Shaun, well done mate. And for everyone for maintaining the rage and keeping the project going. Thank you, Meeting number 43. We'll see you all at meeting number 44. Thanks for your time.

12 Meeting close

Meeting closed: 7:49 pm

Date of following meeting: 22nd April