

6.1 Introduction

The consultation strategy is a mechanism to initiate and maintain open communication with key stakeholders and to provide a forum to proactively respond and work with key community, statutory and public authority stakeholders. The consultation strategy was undertaken by representatives of Delta Electricity, EnergyAustralia and members of the URS team.

From the commencement of the Marulan Gas Turbine Facility Project, Delta Electricity and EnergyAustralia have engaged with the following key stakeholders:

- landholders immediately surrounding the proposed power plant site and natural gas pipeline corridor;
- the broader community through a press release in the Marulan Magazine and Goulburn Post;
- the Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Gundangarra Tribal Council Aboriginal Corporation; and
- State Government agencies, specifically the Department of Planning, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Department of Water and Energy, TransGrid, Roads and Traffic Authority, NSW Rural Bushfire Service, the Department of Primary Industries, Sydney Catchment Authority;
- Commonwealth Civil Aviation Safety Authority; and
- Goulburn Mulwaree Council and Upper Lachlan Shire Council.

Delta Electricity and EnergyAustralia have engaged with key statutory and public authority stakeholders during the planning process for this Environmental Assessment. Exhibition of the Environmental Assessment will present an opportunity for stakeholders and the community to provide feedback on the Assessment. Delta Electricity and EnergyAustralia are committed to providing regular, accurate and up to date information about this proposal.

6.2 Objectives

The key objectives of the stakeholder consultation were to ensure that key stakeholders were:

- appropriately informed of the Project parameters;
- aware of the approvals process; and
- provided with an opportunity to ask questions and to identify areas of concern in respect to the Project.

It is also intended to hold an information session(s) in Marulan during the period when the Environmental Assessment report is on public display where representatives of Delta Electricity, EnergyAustralia and members of the URS study team are present to answer specific queries from the broader community.

While this initial phase of consultation completes the planned consultation activities for inclusion in the Environmental Assessment, Delta Electricity and EnergyAustralia would continue to respond to concerns raised by the community.

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Delta Electricity and EnergyAustralia seek to ensure the community and stakeholders have a high level of awareness of all processes and activities associated with the Project. As outlined below, Delta Electricity and EnergyAustralia aim to provide accurate and accessible information, through various forms of media, and aim to have a high level of responsiveness to issues and concerns raised by the community.

6.2.1 Facilitating Communication

Feedback from stakeholders was facilitated through the establishment of following:

- project information on the Delta Electricity website: <http://www.de.com.au/> ;
- project information on the EnergyAustralia website: <http://www.energy.com.au/> ;
- toll free telephone inquiry number for the Project: 1800 630 430;
- direct email access to the project office: MarulanGasPower@urscorp.com;
- advertisements in the Goulburn Post (25 January 2008) and the Marulan Magazine (February 2008) informing the broader community of the project proposal (refer to **Appendix C**– Consultation Material);
- a letter (June 2007) distributed to neighbours of the Marulan Site and those within the Gas Pipeline Corridor; and
- a newsletter (refer to **Appendix C**) dated January 2008 distributed to those on the Project stakeholder database as well as along Brayton Rd from the Wingecarribee River and past the Big Hill Fire Shed, along Canyonleigh Rd from the intersection of Brayton Rd to Paddy's River and in Marulan Post Office Boxes.
- advertisement inviting groups and individuals to register their interest in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and management program placed in the Goulburn Post on 25 January 2008 with registrations closing 8 February 2008; and
- advertisement to be placed in local regional paper concurrently with exhibition of the Environmental Assessment notifying potentially affected landholders of the Project in accordance with Clause 8F of the EP&A Act.

6.3 Consultation Program and Issues Raised

The consultation was designed to introduce the Project to key stakeholders, focusing primarily on adjacent landholders, local councils, and key community and special interest groups. Where possible, participant questions were addressed immediately. Where this was not possible, a commitment was made to follow up specific questions at either a later date or included in the scope of specialist studies.

The majority of consultations with the community took place during January 2008 and were conducted by representatives of Delta Electricity, EnergyAustralia and URS.

Table 6-1 outlines the Consultation Program, stakeholders and the mechanism of consultation for each group. Correspondence refers to written and/or verbal discussions.

Table 6-1 Consultation Program

Stakeholder	Mechanism						
	Personal Meeting	Newsletter	Group Meeting	Correspondence	Ad in Local Paper	Ad in Regional Paper	Website
Neighbours	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Brayton and Canyonleigh Road residents and landholders		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Local Government	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
State Government Agencies	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Marulan Local Community				✓	✓	✓	✓
Community and environmental groups		✓			✓	✓	✓
The University of Sydney	✓			✓		✓	✓
Aboriginal Groups	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Australian Pipeline Trust				✓		✓	✓
TransGrid	✓			✓		✓	✓
Rural Fire Service	✓			✓		✓	✓
Commonwealth Civil Aviation Safety Authority				✓		✓	✓
Broader community					✓	✓	✓
Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts				✓			✓

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6.3.1 Planning Focus Meeting

A Planning Focus Meeting was held for the Project on 15 January 2008. The attendees were:

- Department of Planning;
- Department of Environment and Climate Change;
- Department of Water and Energy;
- Sydney Catchment Authority;
- Upper Lachlan Council Shire Council (Planning Manager, Mayor and two Councillors); and
- Goulbourn Mulwaree Council (Planning Department representatives).

6.3.2 Residents Meetings

One-on-one meetings were held with neighbours and residents who would potentially be, or would perceive themselves to be, impacted by the location of the Facilities. During the Project, Delta Electricity, EnergyAustralia and URS representatives met with eight residents to discuss the Project, environmental assessment and the planning approval process.

Landowners potentially affected by the Project were contacted by phone and notified by mail of the Project. Landholders potentially affected by the Gas Pipeline Corridor were sent a newsletter and will be further contacted prior to the lodgement of the future Project Application and design stage.

To date approximately 24 people from the broader Marulan community have made inquiries via phone, fax or email. One petition was also received, the details of which can be found in **Table 6-2** below.

6.4 Feedback

Table 6-2 summarises the issues raised by those consulted or those who provided feedback on the proposal and includes community and government stakeholder feedback.

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Table 6-2 Summary of Issues Raised by Stakeholders

Issue / Theme	Summary	Stakeholder	Relevant section of EA addressing concern
Traffic	Need for upgrade (sealing) of Canyonleigh Road and previous commitments that the road would be upgraded that were not addressed by other proponents. Impact on traffic in the area and safety concerns for traffic as well as those crossing the road. Wet weather access. Current traffic on the road from surrounding properties such as concrete trucks and stock deliveries. Wear and tear on the road. Dust generated from traffic on unsealed road. Dust and damage to car from driving on the road that may get worse with additional traffic. traffic numbers and speed seen as an issue. Existing problems along Canyonleigh Road with gates and access with damage to gates along Canyonleigh Road east of the Site. Concerned that residents have to pay rates that contributes to maintenance on the road but that development will not have to pay to maintain road.	Community	Chapter 10 -Traffic and Transport
	Traffic frequency / movement assessment and appropriate management.	Councils / DECC	
	Upgrade of access road to agreed standard.		
Gas Pipeline Easements	Location of the gas pipeline and easement and how rehabilitation / erosion would be managed and followed up.	Community	Chapter 9 -Soil Geology and Groundwater and future Project Application
	Potential erosion problems if rehabilitation / seeding not conducted properly or followed up as has occurred for communications lines.		
	Impacts of easements on property values		
Visual	Visual impact on surrounding properties and what the Facility would look like. Concerns of visibility of plume. Concerned about how the development will look as it is difficult to determine from the newsletter.	Community	Chapter 13 - Visual
	Visual impact assessment - any visual mitigation measures i.e. buffers / screening, are to be placed wholly within the site.	Councils	

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Issue / Theme	Summary	Stakeholder	Relevant section of EA addressing concern
Noise	Noise impact on surrounding properties, both inside and outside houses. Existing impact of hum from switchyard. Proposal will cause noise pollution.	Community	Chapter 8 - Noise and Vibration
	Concern regarding operational noise levels particularly in relation to sensitive receivers. As well as the increase in noise levels due to increase in traffic volume during construction.	Council	
	Assessment of noise impacts to be undertaken in accordance with the Industrial Noise Policy.	DECC	
Noise affected residences	Further discussion and negotiation to occur with residents affected in excess of the INP criteria.	Noise affected residences	Chapter 8 - Noise and Vibration
Property	Impact on surrounding property values and rural character of the area. Proposal will have negative impact on land value. Some residents have moved to the area as a lifestyle change.	Community	Chapter 17 - Land Use
Health	A perception of human health risk from air quality. Perceived health risks to animals and crops. Proposal will have detrimental impact on health and well being.	Community	Chapter 7 - Air Quality, Chapter 15 - Preliminary Hazard Analysis
Air quality	Air quality impact, odour impact and associated health impacts. Potential effects on rainfall. Potential for odours. Proposal will affect quality of air. Potential for rain to affect air emissions grounding with pollutants. Concerned about air impacts from CO, NO _x and VOCs. Some residents have moved to the area as a lifestyle change and to seek country air.	Community	Chapter 7 - Air Quality
	Council requested that the terminology in the report, particularly in relation to air quality modelling, be set out using plain English. Council noted community concern in relation to air quality affecting respiratory ailments.	Council	

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Issue / Theme	Summary	Stakeholder	Relevant section of EA addressing concern
	Address and manage requirements under the POEO Act – see general guidelines. Air emissions including local, regional and cumulative impacts to be assessed. Management of dust during construction. Assessment of GHG contribution.	DECC	
	As the power station is in an area that may have an impact on aircraft operating in this area, we will need a study that shows the effect of the plumes from the power station.	CASA	
Preliminary Hazard Analysis	A perception of risk from the Facility.	Community	Chapter 15 - Preliminary Hazard Analysis
	Prepare preliminary hazard analysis (SEPP 33) and address relevant issues.	Councils	
Heritage	Advertisement and registration of interests required.	DECC / DoP	Chapter 12 – Cultural Heritage
	Potential to impact on archaeological areas.	Community	
Opposition to Project	General opposition to the Project being located at the Marulan Site.	Community	Chapter 2 - Project Need and Justification
Facility Location	Why the Marulan Site was selected. Why the Big Hill site was not chosen. Query why site was selected if there is no water.	Community	Chapter 2 - Project Need and Justification , Chapter 3- Alternatives
Consultation	Concern that some residents have not been consulted.	Community	Chapter 6 - Consultation
	Importance of community consultation.	Councils	
	Commented on the figure in the newsletter: Stated that the figure in the newsletter shows there only being one transmission line running east-west (330kV) but figure does not show the 132 KV line. Stated that the figure also does not show the transmission line correctly in the legend.	Community	Chapter 4 – Project Description

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Issue / Theme	Summary	Stakeholder	Relevant section of EA addressing concern
Future development	Potential for future further development at the Site. Additional Facilities. Potential for nuclear facility.	Community	Chapter 2 - Project Needs and Justification, Chapter 3- Alternatives
Socio Economic	Employment potential.	Community	Chapter 18 - Socio Economic
Approvals process	Queries relating to the process of assessment, approvals and public exhibition.	Community	Chapter 5 - Statutory Planning
Concept Approval	Cumulative assessment, need to assess worst case scenario. Need to provide detail / criteria for pipeline corridor Need to provide consistency of assessment and linkage of the three documents. Pipeline route option to be determined as soon as possible. Address issues of responsibilities i.e., how divided, process of how issues are to be resolved. Delineate monitoring process (especially for noise – if both plants are operating at the same time).	DoP	Assessment chapters
Statutory Planning	Permissibility in relation to relevant planning instruments. Council noted that they currently have an LEP on exhibition which needs to be considered. Address cross boundary issues between Goulburn Mulwaree and Upper Lachlan Shire Councils.	Goulburn Mulwaree Council Upper Lachlan Shire Council	Chapter 5- Statutory Planning, Chapter 17 – Land Use
	Upper Lachlan Shire Council does not have a DCP for Gas-fired Turbines.		
Community Benefit	Need for benefits / compensation for the community to be identified. Examples given such as sealing road and electricity connection for residences. Stated that no matter how good mitigation measures are they will still be impacted and there should be a compensation process.	Community	Chapter 18 - Socio Economic
	Need for community benefits scheme (in addition to road upgrade works).	Councils	
Wastes and Water	Identify and classify all wastes, prepare management strategies as per guidelines.	DECC	Chapter 14 - Water

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Issue / Theme	Summary	Stakeholder	Relevant section of EA addressing concern
	Impact on local water courses that supply drinking water. Proposal will affect quality of water.	Community	
	Potential flooding issues, assessment to be undertaken. There has not been any floodplain studies undertaken by Council for the area incorporating the site, therefore they have no data regarding this matter, however Council made a point that flooding could be an issue.	Council	
	Consider and manage the impact on drinking water given the proximity of the site to the Wollondilly River. The following objectives require addressing: neutral benefit test, water cycle management study, zero discharge from Site, controls for stormwater, water management plan, maintain riparian zone, spill management, embargoes, source of water supply, protection of the bed and bank, particularly if crossing creeks etc for roadworks, no impact to occurred on water courses, protection of groundwater during construction / operation, and address wastewater storage that could affect groundwater. Process for attaining approval etc for the pipeline to be discussed with EnergyAustralia.	SCA / DWE	
	Source of water and potential impact on waterways, including Delta Stage 2 effluent use. As it will be a Scheduled premise, it will need a licence. Need to address who and what will be licensed (i.e. EnergyAustralia, Delta and common infrastructure). DECC would not agree to issuing a licence to discharge water. Assessment of impact of stormwater, high flow events, risk of water leaving the site and inclusion of practical measures for these with these matters to be outlined in a management plan. Implementation of sediment and erosion control as per standard guidelines during construction / operation.	DECC	

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Issue / Theme	Summary	Stakeholder	Relevant section of EA addressing concern
	Need to provide water source options, viable options including re-use and sustainability i.e. during drought. Use standard guidelines to address flooding.	DoP	
Flora and fauna	Impacts on local flora and fauna.	Community	Chapter 5 – Statutory Planning Chapter 11 – Flora and Fauna
	Site assessment required (not just desktop studies) to determine threatened species. Identify the footprint, what is to be cleared, what offsets required, need to identify where offsets will be, i.e. locally (on-site or off-site) for both site and pipeline corridor. This issue is to be within the statement of commitments noting that the offsets have been sourced and are acquirable. DECC notes site contains threatened flora and fauna. Pastoral lands provide secondary grasslands habitat. Trees within the site with hollows are to be targeted and identified. Need to take into account tree removal for access road upgrade. Opportunity to enhance riparian zone of Wollondilly River and tributaries that drain into it.	DECC / DoP	
	Need to address Commonwealth requirements under the EPBC Act for threatened species. Specifically address if the Project is considered a controlled action.		
Bushfire	Potential impacts on occurrence of bushfires.	Community	Chapter 16 – Bush Fire
	Bushfire risk to be assessed. Onsite fire management plan is to be prepared.	Council / SCA	
	Initial comments regarding the Asset Protection Zone (APZ). Noted the assessment is commendable as it is not necessarily required. Area has a high risk of intense fires. RFS would like to meet on site in the later stages of the assessment to discuss specific bushfire management aspects based on the sites merits.	RFS	

6.5 Heritage Consultation

The consultation process was carried out in accordance with the *Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (DEC, July 2005).

EnergyAustralia and Delta Electricity actively sought the views and ideas of stakeholders on cultural heritage. EnergyAustralia and Delta Electricity did this through the following activities:

- Advertisement inviting groups and individuals to register their interest in the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment and management program placed in the Goulburn Post on 25 January 2008 with registrations closing 8 February 2008.
- Letters to the following stakeholders providing notification of the heritage consultation process being undertaken:
 - NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change;
 - Registrar of Aboriginal Owners;
 - Goulburn Mulwaree Shire Council;
 - NSW Native Title Services; and
 - Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Two groups responded to the advertisement:

- Office of the Registrar of Aboriginal Owners advising there are no Aboriginal Owners of the subject land.
- Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council stating they wished to continue to be consulted regarding the Project including further sub surface testing.

The Gundungurra Tribal Council Aboriginal Corporation, although they did not formally register were contacted. They indicated a wish to continue to be consulted regarding the Project, including proposed sub-surface testing.

Consultation will continue with both the Pejar Local Aboriginal Land Council and Gundungurra Tribal Council Aboriginal Corporation.

6.6 Further Consultation During Environmental Assessment and Approvals

Delta Electricity and EnergyAustralia have committed to provide all relevant information to the community for their consideration and response. During public exhibition of the Environmental Assessment, Delta Electricity and EnergyAustralia will forward an electronic copy to landholders and tenants in immediate proximity to the Project Site along with an offer to meet and discuss the content of the Environmental Assessment.

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6.7 Consultation during pre-construction

Opportunities will be provided for potentially affected communities to identify local issues and concerns prior to the commencement of construction to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to mitigate local impacts. These measures will address issues such as noise, access, local amenity, safety and traffic management.

6.8 Consultation following Project commencement

Following commencement of construction and for the duration of the Project, Delta Electricity and EnergyAustralia are committed to ensuring:

- the community and stakeholders have a high level of awareness of all processes and activities associated with the Project;
- provision of accurate and accessible information; and
- a high level of responsiveness to issues and concerns raised by the community.

Communications processes will be developed and implemented throughout delivery of the Project. These will include:

- methods to inform the community of the progress and performance of the Project and issues of interest to the community;
- notification of construction activities to potentially affected local residents and businesses;
- processes to receive and manage complaints in accordance with EnergyAustralia and Delta Electricity customer contract;
- consultation with affected property owners;
- training of construction personnel in communication requirements; and
- protocols to notify stakeholders of relevant activities and any incidents should they occur.

A Consultation Plan would be developed to outline a coordinated, jointly managed complaints response process for both Facilities. A single complaints line would be established for the two Facilities.

6.9 Summary

Table 6-3 presents the mitigation measures for consultation for the proposed Facilities. The phase of implementation is indicated in the table by *Cons* – Construction *Ops* – Operation, *Planning* and *Design*.

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Table 6-3 Summary of Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures	Implementation of mitigation measure	
	EnergyAustralia Facility	Cumulative Impacts
Consultation will continue with stakeholders during the planning, detailed design, construction, operation and maintenance of the Facilities, as needed.	✓ (Cons. & Ops)	✓ (Cons. & Ops)
Notify potentially affected local residents and businesses of construction activities, as needed.	✓ (Cons.)	✓ (Cons.)
Develop and implement protocols to notify stakeholders of relevant activities and as appropriate, any relevant incidents should they occur.	✓ (Cons. & Ops)	✓ (Cons. & Ops)
A Consultation Plan would be developed to outline a coordinated, jointly managed complaints response process for both Facilities. A single complaints line would be established for the two Facilities.	✓ (Cons. & Ops)	✓ (Cons. & Ops)

