

# GPM

**Minutes of CCG Meeting  
15 October 2024  
GPM Office Munmorah**

**Present:**

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Dougal Mulvey, Acting General<br>Manager (DM)                             | Ken Walsh (KW)      |
| John Pola, Safety & Environment<br>Manager (JP)                           | Ray Waldron (RW)    |
| Carolina Alvim, Site Manager (CA)   | Lyndall Benton (LB) |
| Brooke Simmons, Pursuit<br>Communications, Communications<br>Advisor (BS) | Leisa Robson (LR)   |
| Steve Vandertouw (SV)   | Sandra Murray (SM)  |
|   | Ronald Fowle (RF)   |
|   | Craig Anthony (CA)  |
|   | Dom O'Brien (DOB)   |

**Minutes:**

1. CCG members arrived at 5.00 pm
2. The meeting started at 5.50 pm
3. BS welcomed everyone, with traditional landowners acknowledged, introductions made to the GPM team
4. CCG members introduced themselves.
5. DM then led the first part of the meeting:

○ **Who is GPM?** DM explained who GPM is in the order of operations and further explained his role. He said that the Treasury Department of the NSW Government owns GPM and provides GPM with funding to ensure we're doing things in the interest of the NSW people.

○ **What is the former site?** DM Went into detail using the map in the office, detailing where the plume of PFAS sits, how deep tanks on site sit, and current trials being undertaken by external parties to remediate PFAS and hydrocarbons.

SM asked about "Ash," and DM clarified the different types of ash found on site. Coal Ash is different. That was a genuine concern of hers, and she wanted to know what was happening with the ash dam and the EPA.

SM asked, why do you have to bury it (Ash /contaminants)? DM clarifies that soil is a living organism; once you burn it, it is left with ash and has to be buried.

DM says GPM has to go to market for solutions for remediation services. Solutions are still in the elementary phase regarding results and being able to offer sustainable solutions. DM also said that the site is still an active power station site, with gas turbine units owned by Snowy Hydro on site, and they run on gas part of the time. They also have diesel cycles. DM also noted that the Waratah Super Battery (WSB) was on site.

BS interjected and clarified that the WSB is NOT the responsibility of GPM; it is under management and construction organised by Akaysha.

DM also pointed out that Camp Breakaway and council childcare centre sites are areas that are leased from GPM by those entities.

DM then explained the declaration of being "significantly contaminated" and that being declared allows us a framework to work within the system and allows oversight from the EPA and various other organisations to make sure that we're doing the right job we're doing the right thing by the local community there's also the reason why we create the community groups such as this so that we can get feedback from the community on what we're doing as well as circulating information out through the broader community to let everyone in our area know what we're planning on doing.

DM then explained water quality and how and where the water is pumped. DM said one of the main reasons we have the EPL is to ensure the quality of the water that we pump back into the lakes and that it doesn't exceed the recreational limits. DM continued by saying, we monitor discharge points across the site. We are also still currently monitoring as part of the demolition. The council required us to monitor and maintain the contamination that we have on-site. DM clarified that this data is available on the GPM website.

DM explained the diesel plume, where it is, and what stops the water from entering the diesel plume and consequently from entering the lakes. There's a big, giant concrete wall, and the diesel is thicker and floats on water, stopping it from travelling too far.

DM then discussed PFAS and tried to explain parts per trillion to CCG members. DM says what we're measuring on-site is parts per trillion, so for the most part there, it'd be like getting a bucket of sand and then picking 1 grain out of it, and that's sort of the representation of what the contamination is we sit on the most part between around the 95th on average in and the 90th in the worst spot. Then, the 99 Percent percentile protected species, so there's no risk to human health. Essentially, you'd have to go to the canal, and you would have to swim in it every day for 200 years and drink a cup of water or inject a cup of water for two or three lifetimes before you reach the human health limit where they (EPA) are at concerned levels.

DM then explained PFAS and its movements on site, saying that PFAS loves water and becomes very mobile in water. As soon as it gets a little water on, it just spreads down once that's contained on-site in the firefighting area. That's why we built extensive networks of ponds to catch that liquid so that it doesn't spread and point to places on a map.

SV asked about the location of an image used in the presentation. DM said that it was taken at Lake Colongra.

LR asked about alternative solutions to look at businesses for the best solution. DM responded that we put out a DNC proposal (Design and Construct) and got appropriately skilled businesses to respond accordingly.

SV asks, "Does the Government have a budget for all of this?" DM responds, saying it's a difficult question to answer. While we (GPM) have a budget, a ten-year budget is difficult to create, especially with technologies not in place to properly remediate. DM highlights his expertise that helps with this component of the GPM business. RF(?) asks about assurances relating to businesses that meet the requirements to fix the problem. What assurances does GPM have that they'll work? DM responds that this is why we have trials—multiple trials. DM then clarifies the mechanics of the most recent PFAS trial pictured in the presentation.

SM asks about PFAS entering the ground and sitting above the ground. DM clarifies that we have heavy clay on site, which is why the PFAS plume "hasn't worked its way down."

DM then clarifies PFAS within the water around the Central Coast and parts per trillion.

SV asks about rain saturating soil and PFAS. DM says that 90% of the rain that hits the surface becomes runoff and moves down channels; only a tiny portion moves down into soils. It will take a century or two before anything "will happen."

SM then asks, "Do we need to do something with it, sitting there?" DM responds, clarifying what a VMP is, the element of "voluntary" within it, and what work has been carried out.

BS states that this work is the first time work to this scale has been done.

SV asks if this is just in Australia or worldwide. DM responds, "In relation to Power stations, the work will be among the first. In relation to PFAS, the biggest example is in Alaska, where they were digging up and burning PFAS. The preferred treatment is using binding agent activated carbon or resin trapped in form and burying or burning it in that form."

SV asked about radioactive material on site, but DM said there was none.

CA (?) asks about monetising the solutions selected. DM says that will be the decision of the service providers selected. Once a technology becomes viable, it has the potential to be rolled out by the Government (at the relevant level).

SM asks about the role of CCG. Aside from "ticking boxes," what can we take back to our communities?

DM responds that while there is some "box ticking to be done," all information about what we're doing, and if you have feedback from the community, we can answer these questions. We're not hiding anything; we're trying to fix the problem.

- **What work has been conducted so far?**

CA asked about what we wanted to remediate.

DM responds that we're currently undertaking the site masterplan, which outlines what we hope to do with the landmass. On-site species of bats, turtles, birds, swamp wallabies, kangaroos, and swift parrots consequently need a balance between industry, green corridor, and green space. DM then points out elements on the masterplan map of the green corridor and other points of interest.

SM asks about Aboriginal housing.

DM responds that we haven't reached that point yet.

SV clarified that the Aboriginal group cleared the area; DM confirmed that it was that group. SV reported it a year and a half ago; SV says it was bulldozed, and DM believes it was burnt by fire.

SV then asks for clarification regarding GPM's plan to develop the site or sell it to developers. DM responds that the Treasury doesn't sell at this point in time. The remediation process includes a long-term plan, which comes back to the master plan, and an endpoint, which provides for negotiations with the Central Coast Council, Department of Planning, and other relevant bodies to find out "What does the Coast need?"

- **GPM & EPA - working together**

Questions asked about water sampling at Ash Dam – Answered that samples taken from the discharge point and that these results are published on the website.

- **Why is monitoring required?**

- **What does the declaration mean?** DM explained and clarified what this working relationship looks like with the auditor and EPA

## **6. Site tour conducted with DM, CA & BS driving CCG members in vehicles**

## **7. DM resumed part two of presentation**

- **Issues beyond CLM & EPL** - Water treatment plant and feedback from community, that halted plant, but has recently been approved.

SV Asked where water goes - does it go back into the canal?

DM clarified that it goes back into the Ash Dam. Treated water will go into the canal and into the creek and the plan is to treat ALL water on site, that's our plan.

DM says in relation to PFAS GPM has a draft report prepared which is getting ready to present to EPA and discovered PFAS in Koala Park. Sampling has been done there.

SM -Asks about Tennis Courts, DM clarifies that this is Council's responsibility.

DM talks briefly about trespassers and asbestos found on site and that asbestos is all buried deep.

SM asks about asbestos origin; DM clarifies that it's all forms. Not one typical type of asbestos.

SM asks about Government owned land, what level?

DM states that the Government does NOT own the land, GPM owns the land, but the Government owns GPM. So, GPM can't sell it, but it also prevents others from acquiring land. "Not free land" SP2, zoned. (Power Generation Zoned). Zoning refers to what you can do.

- **What does the future hold?**

DM wraps up with summary of the future, going over activities carried out including water treatment plant and samples taken and testing and reports being completed.

JP clarifies areas on a map for understanding of CCG members.

- **Staying in touch**

BS then overviews information dissemination of information, passwords for members' portal, and how to stay in touch with GPM post-meeting.

December or February floated for the next meeting.

JP says as an example, members at the Kerosene Vale Community Consultation Group wanted to know about Dam Safety and Compliance.

SV Asks about maps, given the one referred to is slightly out of date, will an updated map be forthcoming?

DM responds, in discussion with town planners, that it will be more amenable to the community and the Central Coast Council didn't include it in the masterplan, until the most recent plan. So, this will be a critical part of the next map, especially with appointment of Mayor and Councillors.

CA (?) Asks if "We should approach council with what we would like to see happen to this site".

DM responds that while the site is Zoned Power Station area, the decision is in response to State and Local Government needs and plans.

SV Asks if we are free to discuss what we have seen and heard tonight?

DM responds in the affirmative and that this is the point.

○ **Open Q&A** (Majority of questions conducted during the meeting, no further questions) general chat between members.

8. Meeting concluded at 7.45pm