

Gloucester Exploration Project COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

Date:	7 October 2016	10:00am
Venue:	Rocky Hill Project Information Centre, 33 Church St, Gloucester	
Present:	<i>Chairperson:</i> Lisa Andrews (LA) <i>GRL:</i> Bob Corbett (RC) <i>NSW Trade & Invest:</i> Julie Moloney (JM) <i>Mid Coast Council:</i> Jim Henderson (JH)	<i>Community Reps:</i> Ray Dawes (RD) Anthony Berecny (AB) <i>Minutes:</i> Christine Oakes
By Invitation:	Peter Jamieson	Judith Cox Daniel Barclay
Apologies:	Bill Williams	Trevor Sansom Steve Robinson Stewart Carruthers
Non-attendance:	NIL	

1. Opening of Meeting

LA declared the meeting open at 10:06am.

LA declared that she is an independent chair who has been appointed to this CCC by the Minister for Industry Resources and Energy, Mr Anthony Roberts MP.

The Chair introduced:

- Peter Jamieson, Head of Regional Operations in the Hunter with the EPA, who has accepted an invitation to attend this CCC to provide information and explain the EPA's role in the water process.
- Daniel Barclay, Principal Hydrogeologist with Australasian Groundwater and Environmental Consultants, who has been involved with the project from the outset and managed all aspects of the ground water assessment; and
- Judith Cox, Principal Consultant Air Quality with Pacific Environmental, who is managing air quality investigations for the project.

The Chair thanked GRL for inviting both Mr Barclay and Ms Cox to the meeting today to address the committee and answer questions from the members.

The Chair asked all present to complete the attendance sheet.

2. Apologies

Bill Williams – Advance Gloucester
 Stewart Carruthers – Gloucester Business Chamber
 Trevor Sansom - Community Representative
 Steve Robinson – Community Representative

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Page 4:

Reference to the "Ferris" property on three occasions should be preceded by the word "former".

Page 7:

AB raised issue of comments contained in the previous minutes in relation to a letter written by SR and feels reference to this matter should be deleted from the minutes or the minutes be held over for approval until SR has had the opportunity to comment.

RD advised his preference to hold the minutes over for approval for this purpose also.

After discussion, the Chair advised that SR had not raised any issue in relation to the draft minutes and that the minutes reflect what was discussed and therefore are an accurate record of the meeting.

The Chair asked if someone wished to confirm that the minutes were correct.

Previous minutes accepted:

Moved: Jim Henderson **Seconded:** Brian Clifford

Chair offered to record AB as a dissenting vote, which was accepted.

**4. Business
Arising**

- 4.1 LA emailed RC the member contact details to enable distribution of USB devices containing exhibited documentation to CCC members.
 - 4.2 RC distributed USB devices containing exhibited documentation to CCC members.
 - 4.3 JH raised the issue of signage and placards in use by Knitting Nannas with MidCoast Council’s General Manager and Administrator. Both persons felt it best to leave this issue for now and not approach the Group. JH did however state that there was a further issue with the Group’s signage on 6/10/16.
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5. Correspondence

- 1. 5/8/16 – Email from Steve Robinson with copies of his letters to the Newcastle Herald
 - 2. 6/8/16 – Email from Chair to Steve Robinson that based on her reading of the letters, now supplied, it was considered that he had not breached the Charter.
 - 3. 9/8/16 – Email from Ray Dawes to Chair asking if Mid Coast Water could have input on the Rocky Hill Mine Project
 - 4. 15/8/16 Email from Chair to GRL with the postal addresses of the CCC members for distribution of the USB containing the EIS
 - 5. 16/8/16 – Email from Chair to CCC members regarding the placement of the Rocky Hill Mine EIS on exhibition as well as advising them of the opening of the Information Centre.
 - 6. 31/8/16 Email from Chair to GRL with the amended minutes from June 2016 for uploading onto the website
 - 7. 2/9/16 – Email from Chair to CCC members with draft minutes from 5/8/16 meeting
 - 8. 3/9/16 – Email from Chair to Jim Henderson reminding him to raise the matter of the occupation & obstruction of the public footpath with Mid Coast Council
 - 9. 22/9/16 – Email from Ian Jackson concerning the hours of operation for the RHCP and the terminology of “night”
 - 10. 22/9/16 – Email from chair to Ian Jackson advising that “night” is defined under the EPA’s Industrial Noise Policy
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11. 22/9/16 – Email from Chair to CCC members with the Meeting Notice and Agenda for today's meeting, which also included the details of invited guests
 12. 22/9/16 – Email from Chair to Peter Jamieson from the EPA advising of the venue and start time for today's meeting
 13. 23/9/16 – Email from Ian Jackson requesting he be removed from the email distribution list.
 14. 30/9/16 – Email from Janice Sansom advising of Trevor's apology for today's meeting.

Correspondence accepted:

Moved: Lisa Andrews

Seconded:

Jim Henderson

6. Project Update GRL

RC provided an update on the project:

- No change from last meeting, ie still awaiting approval for three exploration licences.
- From a land management point of view, there is nothing new; however, after the last meeting a fire occurred on the Vitmar's property which burned for a couple of days. Chris Maslen also undertook some burning off for hazard reduction.
- In terms of Rocky Hill, from a community perspective, GRL has opened an Information Centre from 24 August (approximately 7 weeks) during which time approximately 200 people have visited the centre. The Company has also taken a number of people out onto the site, including Council and government department representatives. BC has delivered a presentation to Advance Gloucester, the local business chamber and to the Rotary Club.
- Sponsorship was provided to the RSL Club to assist with the purchase of a covered trailer to transport chairs to special events and for their storage in between events.
- The Exhibition Centre is due to close on 14 October. RC invited participants to ask questions of the consultants, Mr Barclay and Ms Cox and advised that both would be staying after the meeting to answer any questions of the general public who may drop into the centre.
- The issues of fires in the area and fire hazard reduction exercises were discussed. RC advised that fire control management will be seriously looked at post approval which will also apply to the biodiversity offset area.

Questions were asked and answered.

The Chair introduced Mr Jamieson to the meeting.

Mr Jamieson explained the background of the EPA, with particular reference to its role as a regulator and its involvement in projects such as the Rocky Hill Project.

He advised that if the Rocky Hill Project is approved it will require a licence to be issued by the EPA with conditions that the company must comply with.

Questions were asked and answered in relation to the communities involvement, licencing requirements, guidelines, policies, modelling, the Industrial Noise Policy, the EPA's regulatory role, etc.

Mr Jamieson explained the water licence process with the EPA.

As part of the licence process, air, noise, water and health issues are considered. Some licences also allow discharge into the river. Rocky Hill will have exactly the same limits in relation to its licence conditions if approved. That is, the EPA licence will have a discharge point with conditions associated with it.

What Rocky Hill has proposed is a more sophisticated water treatment plan. Specifics are not completely clear but the EPA are aware of what is proposed. The proposal is far more advanced then what is installed at many other operations.

If approved, the EPA is confident Rocky Hill will be able to meet the criteria. Any licence issued only allows discharge to occur in compliance with specific conditions.

Mr Jamison advised the EPA is constantly negotiating with companies.

The Chair thanked for Jamieson for his time and for explaining the EPA's role.

At this time, being 11.20am, the chair called for a brief recess of the meeting.

Meeting recommenced at 11.30am:

The Chair then introduced Mr Daniel Barclay, Principal Hydrogeologist with Australasian Groundwater and Environmental Consultants.

Mr Barclay advised his Brisbane based company has been involved in the Rocky Hill Project since 2011. The Company's main focus is basically on the mining industry and the approvals process for developments. He described the monitoring process in relation to ground water for the project.

15 monitoring bores have been drilled in order to accurately measure water levels and these are monitored every six hours. Regular water sampling is also undertaken from these bores with results uploaded into a company database.

This groundwater monitoring data and data from drilling of bores is used and hydrological testing undertaken in respect to aquifers. Rainfall, stream flow etc is also taken into account, to give an understanding of the system.

A 3D model provides a representation of the geological system. With the model we take ground water level data we have captured and use it in the process to calibrate the model against hydraulic parameters and match with ground water data observed on the site. We are fortunate to have a long record of good quality data, approximately 4-5 years.

We have a robust model and we utilise this model to determine impact.

All of this information is presented in our report, including closure, eg what happens with back-fill etc.

Going forward we would use a numerical model as a tool to benchmark how the project is performing against what has been projected. Annual performance reports also need to be provided to the appropriate Government body by GRL. Therefore, there is an annual check, however, the model is only checked every five years.

Questions were asked and answered in relation to water quality, salinity, flows, draw downs, groundwater, alluvials, etc.

The Chair thanked Mr Barclay for his presentation and time and for his attendance at the CCC meeting.

The Chair then introduced Ms Judith Cox, Principal Consultant, Air Quality with Pacific Environmental who advised she has been involved in the Rocky Hill Project for Phase 2 (the amended Project), however, her company has been involved from the outset in relation to air quality.

Ms Cox advised that the Rocky Hill project is the cleanest coal mine she has been involved with.

At this time, being 12.19pm, Mr Jamieson excused himself and left the meeting.

Ms Cox explained the process of air modelling to those present. She stated that it needs to be understood that they can't actually model what is going to happen on a precise day and confirmed that the mine is only operating to 10pm of an evening and not 24 hourly.

General discussion on air quality took place and Judith offered to send through an internet link on a report undertaken by Woolcott which discusses combustible effects on health.

Given that this subject is of particular interest to SR, the Chair asked GRL if it would allow SR to send through questions via the Chair to Ms Cox for response. BC agreed.

The Chair thanked all visitors on their presentations at the meeting and advised that Mr Barclay and Ms Cox would be staying for some time that afternoon to answer any questions which may arise from members and the general public at the Information Centre.

7. General Business

There was no general business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:30am. NEXT MEETING: 2 December 2016 at 10am.
