

Gloucester Exploration Project COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

Date:	5 August 2016	10:00am
Venue:	Gloucester Arts Centre	
Present:	<i>Chairperson:</i> Lisa Andrews (LA) <i>GRL:</i> Bob Corbett (RC) <i>NSW Trade & Invest:</i> Julie Moloney (JM) <i>Advance Gloucester:</i> Bill Williams (BW) <i>Mid Coast Council:</i> Jim Henderson (JH)	<i>Community Reps:</i> Ray Dawes (RD) Steve Robinson (SR) Trevor Sansom (TS) Anthony Berecra (AB) <i>Minutes:</i> Christine Oakes
Apologies:	Stewart Carruthers – Business Chamber	
Non-attendance:	NIL	

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- 1. Opening of Meeting** LA declared meeting open at 10:06am.
- LA is an independent chair who has been appointed to this CCC by the Minister for Industry Resources and Energy, Mr Anthony Roberts.
- LA asked each participant to introduce themselves and advised she would be sending around an attendance sheet for completion during the meeting.
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- 2. Apologies** Nil.
- Noted: Mr Jim Henderson has returned to the committee representing MidCoast Council.
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- 3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes** The Chair requested that Karen Hutchison be noted as an apology.
- Previous Minutes accepted:
- Moved:** Bob Corbett **Seconded:** Steve Robinson
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- 4. Business Arising** No business arising from the previous minutes.
- BC advised Evelina Hendry, a visitor to the last CCC meeting, is no longer in the role of Community Liaison Officer with the Department of Industry. JM will advise of her replacement once appointed.
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5. Correspondence

1. 2/6/16 – Follow-up Letter to Minister in relation to Chair’s previous correspondence for the Business Chamber & Advance Gloucester to be represented on the CCC;
2. 3/6/16 – Letter to Karen Hutchison and Jim Henderson, thanking them for their contribution on the CCC;
3. 3/6/16 – Letter to MidCoast Council seeking a delegate to represent Council as a stakeholder on this CCC;
4. 3/6/16 – Letter to Knitting Nannas with a response to their letter of 21 April 2016 and attaching the answers to the questions raised;
5. 3/6/16 – Letter to Knitting Nannas with a response to their letter dated 1 June 2016 regarding the Administrator appointed to MidCoast Council;
6. 4/6/16 – Email from Chair to CCC members with the link to the haulage route on the Rocky Hill Project website, as well as the contact details for Evelina Hendry from the Department of Resources and Energy;
7. 4/6/16 – Email from Karen Hutchison with her apology for the 3 June meeting (she had had trouble with her emails and had previously sent it through, however wasn’t received);
8. 4/6/16 – Email from Chair with response to Denise Gilbert’s email of 2/6/16;
9. 5/6/16 – Email from Dianne Montague (Groundswell Gloucester) regarding composition of CCC;
10. 7/6/16 – Letter of response to Dianne Montague (Groundswell Gloucester);
11. 8/6/16 – Second email from Denise Gilbert raising further disappointment with non-Forbesdale resident on CCC and conflict of interest claims against another current community representative as well as the website not up to date;
12. 8/6/16 – Email from Karen Hutchison (former Councillor) advising that she has been appointed to the Local Representative Committee of the new amalgamated MidCoast Council;
13. 17/6/16 – Email from Chair with a response to Mrs Gilbert’s second email;
14. 30/6/16 – Email from Karen Hutchison advising that she had discussed remaining on the CCC as Mid-Coast Council’s delegate with the Administrator;
15. 16/7/16 – Email from Dianne Montague chasing up a response to the letter from Groundswell Gloucester dated 5 June 2016;
16. 27/7/16 – Email from Chair to Dianne Montague advising that a response was sent on 7 June 2016 and attaching an electronic version of the document;
17. Undated – Letter from the Minister of Industry, Anthony Roberts MP endorsing the membership of Gloucester Business Chamber and Advance Gloucester on the CCC;
18. 3/8/16 – Email from Ian and Susanna Jackson advising of their exacerbation with having to make another submission to DPE about the project;
19. 3/8/16 – Email from Chair advising that the placement of the amended application on public exhibition is part of the planning process and enables residents to comment on the modifications;
20. 3/8/16 – Email from Mid-Coast Council advising that Jim Henderson will be the Council’s delegate;
21. 3/8/16 – Email from Chair to Jim Henderson with a meeting notice and agenda for today’s meeting.

Moved correspondence accepted:

Moved: Lisa Andrews

Seconded: Bill Williams

6. Project Update
GRL

RC provided update as follows:

- No change from last meeting, ie still awaiting approval for three exploration licences, therefore, as a consequence, no exploration activity has taken place.
- From a community perspective the Company has recently supported the Chill Out Winter Fair.
- In regard to the Rocky Hill Project a draft of the EIS was submitted to DoP on 24 June 2016 for adequacy of content, which is the first step in the process. Some comments were received on 13 July but were not of any major consequence. Discussions were also held with DP&E on how best to present certain information particularly in regard to visual impact.
- Amended development application is being submitted to Dept of Planning and Environment today (5/8/16). The decision then lies with DPE as to timing of both the amended EIS and amended DA being placed on exhibition and for what duration. However, it is anticipated both documents will be on exhibition towards the end of August. DPE previously advised that the duration would be six weeks, however, this is not confirmed.
- When the EIS goes on exhibition it will be available in Gloucester and possibly Forster and Taree areas.
- DPE will advise of the number of hard copies to be supplied and who they are to be provided to.
- USB devices will be provided to all CCC members and will be sent to their personal addresses.

ACTION: RC

Distribute USB device to each committee member of amended documentation when placed on exhibition

- While the EIS is being advertised for public consultation GRL is planning to have an Information Centre available for two days per week commencing the week following placement of the EIS on exhibition. Location, opening dates, times etc will be communicated to CCC members via the company web site.
- The amended EIS, supporting documentation (plans, video etc), will be available at the Information Centre.
- JM suggested it may be of benefit to hold a CCC meeting at the Information Centre. This was favourably received however the next scheduled meeting is 7/10/16. BW advised GRL will be presenting to the Advanced Gloucester meeting on 21/9/16. This will be an open meeting.

ACTION: LA

Email CCC member contact details to RC to enable him to distribute USB devices on exhibited documentation

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- Q:** At the recent Chamber of Commerce meeting it was indicated that Stage 2 of the Rocky Hill project was a possibility. The Maslen family is seeking clarification in relation to Stage 2 and if mining is not proposed will the company be relinquishing its leases in this area?
- A:** There are no plans for future exploration in the area of the Maslen dairy property and there is no Stage 2 planned for the Rocky Hill Project. In terms of relinquishment of the leases in that area, these are required for monitoring activities. Relinquishment of leases in the area is ultimately a decision of the Board of GRL.
- Q:** There are concerns within the Forbesdale community on further mining, post GRL. If Keith Ross was prepared to give his word that there is no Stage 2 proposed for Rocky Hill the community would be satisfied with that.
- A:** Both RC and BC reiterated that there is no plan for Stage 2. The Company has been very careful to ensure the continued operation of the Maslen dairy. The Project does not encroach into the former Maslen property.
- Q:** Is the haul road going to be built to any specification standard?
- A:** The haul road has been discussed at length in previous minutes. However, the road will be bitumen sealed. For maintenance reasons it is in GRL's interest to build the road to a high standard.
- Q:** What is the route of the haul road in relation to the former Ferris' property?
- A:** Previously discussed and answered in previous minutes.
- Q:** Location of rotary breaker? Where on former Ferris' property?
- A:** There is no structures other than the haul road on the former Ferris' property. Breaker will be near the former Malcolm-Coe property
- Q:** Will the EIS detail truck movements on private road?
- A:** Yes
- Q:** Does any other property need to be acquired for easement purposes?
- A:** No
- Q:** Does the EIS identify the numbers of trucks and what sort of movements?
- A:** Yes. We have a listing on number of trucks and movements when at maximum production.
- Q:** How was leasing of properties set up?
- A:** GRL has a private arrangement with Maslens. BC advised if people are interested in leasing they should contact GRL. GRL does have a number of leased properties which may become available. Webbs manage the company's residential properties, however, GRL manages leasing arrangements for rural lands.

Q: Has the water management plan been finalised?

A: Yes. A desalination plant will be required based on updated modelling of ground water inflows which,, along with the decision not to go ahead with a coal preparation plant, means that there will be an excess of saline waster over and above what can be stored or used on site for dust suppression. Based on the modelling, the desalination plant will not be required until the fourth year of operation. The water from the plant will be utilised to irrigate rehabilitated areas and adjacent areas of the company's property.

Q: What is the plan for salt obtained via the desalination plant?

A: This will be a solid product and a number of options are available to GRL. Discussion took place on possible options for salt product along with irrigation of company property, diversion of the creek and installation of detention dams within the diversion channel to slow water flow.

Q: GRL has stated the Rocky Hill project has the best coking coal in NSW. What seams were being referred to in terms of producing coking coal?

A: Question has been answered in previous minutes. However it has always been stated that a high proportion of coking coal (90%) as against thermal (10%) will be produced. Now looking at 95% coking and 5% thermal.

7. General Business

BW raised his objection to the presence of representatives from Knitting Nannas at each CCC meeting and would like to lodge an official complaint through this CCC. He believes MidCoast Council should be something about moving these people on as they are blocking the footpath and affecting businesses.

The Chair advised that she is not offended by these persons, and although she respects BW's opinion, she is will not be writing to the Council in this regard as people do have the right to protest against matters of interest within their community.

JH believes it is the responsibility of the Chamber to approach MidCoast Council, particularly in relation to sandwich board signs and placards that the Knitting Nannas Group is using.

ACTION: JH

As a Council delegate requested JH raise this issue with Council

SR advised of an unwell person who is currently on a respirator who lives 3-4 km from the proposed mine site. He asked if, assuming GRL receives approval and commences digging will there be a system in place to provide some further protection for residents with high risk health issues?

BC advised this is a question for the appropriate health agency who prepare policy on this subject.

Discussion took place on air quality in the area and GRL advised it is and will continue to work within the regulator's health-based limits. LA strongly recommended these issues be raised by concerned persons during the public exhibition phase by putting in a submission. The assessing officer will consider those issues and if necessary the company will be advised to address them. The company reiterated this is a policy level discussion and doesn't feel this is a question for GRL to answer.

JH stated that during the month of August you would not see the hills in the area for bush fire smoke for example. Nature cannot be controlled but there are standards which GRL must comply with and providing they stick to those standards they are in compliance.

RD raised the point on GRL advertising in the Gloucester media in relation to possible work at the mine some 3-4 years ago. This was undertaken to gauge local interest in employment and the company also asked that resumes be submitted from interested persons. Obviously no jobs have eventuated to date and RD feels this is a long time for people to keep their hopes up in regard to actual employment. Therefore, will a similar process be followed in the future if approval is received in regard to employment?

RC advised that initially an expression of interest was placed in the media in 2012 to determine if comments made by some people that GRL would not be able to get the high level of local employment that it was proposing were correct or not and also to gauge the level of interest from local persons. The response received was very positive when the advertisement was run on two occasions. Some resumes were provided. The company has continued to remain in touch with interested people to keep them informed on the project status. These people have certainly not been discarded.

All interested persons are in a database. Once the company is in a position to hire they will be contacted.

GRL also continues to receive expressions of interest as well as follow-up contact from registered persons.

Also, should approval be granted and once closer to construction, employment positions will be advertised and also placed on the website. However, the data base will be the first thing examined.

RD advised the Chair he will be on going on annual leave for approximately six months. The Chair requested RD make formal application for an alternative representative.

ACTION: LA

Provide RD with an application form for completion by alternate representative for recommendation to the Minister

BC acknowledged a letter that was written by a CCC member (SR) to the editor and subsequently printed in the Newcastle Herald a couple of weeks ago. BC stated that he was disappointed that one of the CCC members had written the letter, which in GRL's opinion was misleading in its representations; that by naming the Rocky Hill project could place fear in the Gloucester community by mentioning the likely re-emergence of black lung disease and rural suicide. BC was concerned that the community may construe the information provided by a CCC member as being factual, when GRL disputed these assertions.

It was acknowledged that no other CCC members were aware of the published letter.

Following discussion on why the letter was submitted by SR (who stated that he was trying to attract the attention of the new local Federal member and Assistant Minister for Rural Health, David Gillespie), the Chair reminded all committee members that there is a code of conduct within the Charter, stating that members may only speak to the media on their own behalf and the Chair is the only person to speak on behalf of the Community

Consultative Committee. The Chair reiterated that an individual member may express their personal opinions, which is not a breach of the Charter.

It was noted the GRL websites need to be updated. New committee members also need to added to the website.

ACTION: LA

Provide contact details for Jim Henderson and Stewart Carruthers to RC

BC advised he will be in the area for 2-3 days per week. He is open to attending any public forum and can be contacted by mobile.

ACTION: LA

Provide BC contact details to CCC members to pass on to the associated groups

TS raised the issue of hazard reduction on land using fire. He asked if this was GRL's management responsibility or property lessees?

RC advised land management is predominantly left to the lessee. However, this will be an issue that will need to be built into the various management plans following approval.

Discussion took place on the 1970 fire which severely impacted on the Forbesdale area.

In conclusion, GRL advised that if anything is happening on GRL owned land which seems inappropriate, please let the company know. GRL are not farmers and they rely on the lessee to do the right thing in terms of their lease. However, the company has contacted lessees in regard to fire management.

The company has no plans at present in relation to fire hazard reduction activities in the hills to the east of the Mine Area that will form part of the biodiversity offset area. However, if this was required, GRL would commission the Rural Fire Service to undertake the work, in accordance with the appropriate regulations and permits.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:45am. NEXT MEETING: 7 October 2016.
