

Gloucester Exploration Project

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date:	19 February 2016	10:00am
Venue:	Gloucester Country Club	
Present:	<i>Chairperson:</i> Lisa Andrews (LA) <i>GRL:</i> Keith Ross (KR) Bob Corbett (RC) Brian Clifford (BC) <i>Great Lakes Council:</i> Cr Karen Hutchinson (KH) <i>Gloucester Council:</i> Danny Green (DG)	<i>Community Reps:</i> Ray Dawes (RD) Steve Robinson (SR) Anthony Berecry (AB) Trevor Sansom (TS) <i>NSW Trade & Invest:</i> Julie Moloney (JM) <i>Minutes:</i> Christine Oakes
Apologies:	Ilan Jackson Cr Tony Tersteeg	
Non-attendance:	NIL	

1. Opening of Meeting

LA declared the meeting open at 10:04am and welcomed attendees to the Gloucester Exploration Project CCC.

LA stated that it has been 15 months since the last CCC meeting, following the resignation of Terrence Healey, former Chairperson of the CCC.

LA advised that she is an independent chair who has been appointed to this CCC by the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy, Anthony Roberts MP. Since her appointment she has met with representatives from DRE, GRL and Gloucester Shire Council. RC has driven her around the exploration and Rocky Hill sites to familiarise herself with the project

LA asked each participant to introduce themselves and sign the attendance sheet. Application Forms were distributed for CCC members to complete with their contact details. She also asked participants to advise of any other affiliation he/she may have to other CCCs, environmental groups or similar bodies. The information provided would be kept confidential and reaffirms the members' commitment to their involvement on the CCC.

2. Apologies

Ilan Jackson, Councillor Tony Tersteeg (GSC) for this and future meetings and Councillor Jim Henderson (replacement representative for GSC)

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Previous Minutes accepted:

Moved: Bob Corbett

Seconded: Anthony Berecry

4. Business Arising

There were no actions from previous minutes dated 7/11/2014

5. Correspondence

December 2015

Letter from Minister of Industry, Resources & Energy, Anthony Roberts MP, appointing LA as Chairperson of CCC.

22/12/2015

Email from Chair to CCC members advising of appointment, and informing of the scheduled meetings with DRE & GRL in January 2016 and proposal to hold a meeting in February.

27/1/16

Email from Chair to CCC members with a "save the date" for 19/2/16 (attaching previous minutes of November 2014).

27/1/16

Email from Rebecca Connor advising that Gloucester Shire Council no longer provides employee representatives on CCCs.

6/2/16

Email from Chair to CCC members with the Meeting Notice and Agenda for this meeting, including the Gloucester Exploration Charter and draft minutes of November 2014.

6/2/16

Email from Cr Tony Tersteeg advising that he has resigned as a Councillor on GSC due to ill health and that he will be an apology for this and future meetings of the Gloucester Exploration Project CCC.

15/2/16

Email from Dianne Montague from the Gloucester Residents in Partnership, who has sent through questions and requested a response.

16/2/16

Email from Ian Jackson with his apology for this meeting and sent through some questions for response.

Correspondence accepted:

Moved: Lisa Andrews

Seconded: Ray Dawes

ACTION: RC

Check records for email he believes he forwarded in March 2015 to participants.
If found forward on to LA for distribution.

6. Adoption of the Gloucester Exploration Project CCC Charter

LA referred to the Exploration Charter distributed to participants. This charter has been approved by the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy.

JM explained that this CCC is formed under the Department of Industry Division of Resources & Energy by the Minister for Industry, Resources & Energy and is specific for the exploration licences that GRL hold. This committee has always operated under a Charter. Everything that was in the former charter has been incorporated into the new charter which has been approved for use in the CCC.

RC advised this type of information has always been available on the GRL website. The Rocky Hill website is down for updating at present, however, it is hopeful details of the CCC membership, meeting minutes etc will be up and running again this afternoon (19/2/16). This meeting's minutes when ratified are loaded to the GRL site for information. Change in membership will also be noted.

Although this information has been available to the community in the past via the GRL website, it is intended to be available from both sites.

ACTION: RC

Provide a link on both sites for easy toggling and reference by users accessing either site.

7. Project Update GRL

RC provided an update on the project:

- In November 2014 the Company was in the middle of the exploration project with the completion of the south west stage 2 program. Following which, exploration was moved into Woods Road area and finished in March 2015.
- Renewal applications for all three exploration licences were lodged during Q1 of 2015, and are still being assessed by the Department.
- A work program has been included for the ensuing three years. There have been no exploration (drilling) activities undertaken since 2015.
- Some field work is planned subject to renewal approval, including recommencement of limited drilling activities.
- GRL has been focused on the Rocky Hill Project over the last 12 months.
- In relation to property management - all GRL agricultural properties are leased and continue to be utilised for agricultural purposes. GRL no longer undertakes any agricultural activities itself.
- In regard to Rocky Hill, the assessment by DPE of the Rocky Hill Coal Project application as exhibited in late 2013 was placed on hold in mid 2015 pending review of some design and operational refinement that could have environmental benefits. In December 2015 an agreement was reached with Yancoal. As soon as this agreement was reached, DG (Gloucester Council) and the Department were advised and a media statement was provided to the Gloucester Advocate to keep the community informed.
- The proposal has been amended to what was previously exhibited, with no train loader, no conveyor and no coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP) now proposed. It is now intended to use the Yancoal owned, Stratford Mine infrastructure for these activities. Coal is proposed to be transported from Rocky Hill to the Stratford Mine using a private haul road on land owned by GRL and Yancoal. No other private landholdings will be involved.
- Since publication of the media statement, GRL have been revisiting studies previously undertaken for the project. Due to some changes to the mine plan, a total rework of many of the prior assessments is required. This is currently occurring and is planned to continue into the future.

In preparation for exhibition of the previous EIS, a social impact assessment was commissioned and undertaken by consultant company, Key Insights (Ellen Davis-Meahan). A lot has happened since this assessment was done in 2012 and Key Insights is about to recommence an update of this assessment.

- It is anticipated that the amended EIS will be submitted in mid-2016 and, to assist, RC asked if the individual committee members would agree for Ellen Davis-Meahan to them individually for feedback on the project as part of the re-assessment. All community members agreed to RC providing Ellen with personal contact details, i.e. email and phone contacts.

ACTION: RC

Provide Key Insights with individual member contact details

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- DG asked what process would be undertaken between resubmission of the EIS occurring in mid-June and prior to it going on exhibition and was advised that the application will be assessed by DPE to check the Director General's requirements had been addressed. The last EIS was placed on exhibition for two months, however the duration for the exhibition of the Amended EIS will be determined by the Department of Planning and Environment.
 - The public, Council and government agencies are able to make submissions which the company responds to. A report is prepared by DP&E and provided to the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) for review.
 - Major changes to the amended EIS relate to items of infrastructure. There will still be some coal processing (crushing and stone removal by screening) undertaken on site, but that is the extent of it. This processing will be undertaken approximately 1 ½ km south east from where the CHPP was to be located under the prior application. It is proposed that the processing would be undertaken during day light hours with cartage also being conducted during this time, ie 7am to 7pm only.
 - It should be noted that the company is not seeking to haul 24 hours per day. Road registered prime movers will be used to haul on a sealed road.
 - A question was raised on whether there was a plan 'B' if Stratford shuts down. GRL confirmed that the agreement with Yancoal covers this possibility.
 - Further questions were asked and answered in relation:
 - Covering of loads – not anticipated at this stage, however, will be determined based on the outcomes of the air quality assessment.
 - Conveyor vs haul road – not viable from an engineering view point.
 - Decrease of employee numbers for Rocky Hill due to arrangement with Stratford – will drop to 110, however, may increase at different phases of the project.
 - Contractors used for hauling – Yes
 - Quality of Coal – good quality coking coal for use in steel manufacture. Not for power generation purposes
 - Whether Rocky Hill coal will be blended with Stratford Coal – no, kept separate.
 - Possible sale of proposed mine, once approval process granted - no
 - GRL confirmed an undertaking provided several years ago in relation to the allocation of 50c/t product coal to the local community – with consideration given to community projects that provide training and employment opportunities for the young, agricultural pursuits, etc.

8. General Business

8.1 Email dated 15/2/2016 received from Dianne Montague (Gloucester Residents in Partnership Sub-committee of Groundswell Gloucester) with the following questions for tabling at the meeting:

Q1: When the amendment to the current EIS is submitted to the Dept. will the community have a right to respond with their own submissions?

Reply: RC advised questioned answered during “ 7 Project Update”.

Q2: What are GRL going to do about the neglected state of the properties that they own? Many properties are overgrown and in disrepair. People in the community have commented on this.

We request that they do not burn the paddocks as they did last time. This resulted in a large smoke haze as the land is in the valley. Also burning is not the best option due to the unplugged AGL gas wells also in the same area.

Please let us know so we can advise the community.

Reply: All agricultural properties are leased and all but two residential properties are tenanted. The untenanted properties are not suitable for occupation.

Maintenance of the residential properties is managed through a real estate agent who manages the properties. Management of agricultural properties by lessees. If there are any concerns with particular properties, please provide addresses for further investigation.

GRL has not undertaken any burning on its properties since the latter part of 2013. There was however one fire lit by an agricultural lessee towards the end of Spring 2014. There has been deliberate burning since that time and GRL has no plans to undertake any.

Q3: We have been approached by land owners who have an option with GRL. They are extremely concerned about what is happening as it has gone on now for years and they want to make plans for their lives. We are aware that the agreements are with GRL and the landholder but as we are the ones who are approached we feel we need to give some answer to alleviate their stress. If nothing is forthcoming from GRL then we will refer these people to legal advisors.

Reply: This is a private matter between GRL and the landholders. Should people have concerns, they are encouraged to contact GRL to discuss.

Q4: What is happening about the three exploration licences which to this date have not been approved? EL6523 & EL6524 due for renewal in March 2015 and EL6563 in May 2015.

Reply: JM advised that the renewal of the three ELs is pending and being assessed in line with legislation and her department's procedures/guidelines.

JM also advised that under the Mining Act the ELs remain in place under previous conditions while the renewal applications are pending determination.

Q5: Can GRL tell the community what exploration they are undertaking on these exploration licences?

Reply: As previously discussed in "7 Project Update", RC reiterated that GRL is not currently undertaking field activities. However, detailed analyses and work is being carried out in the background.

8.2 Questions from Ian Jackson tabled at the meeting as follows:

Q1: In the last Minutes it was stated that there has been no community updates as there was nothing to report. Can you explain why when there was something to report there has been no paid newspaper advertisements, letter drops, etc to explain to the community about the postponed EIS and the new amended EIS proposal, its time frames, web address, contact numbers.

I don't count one newspaper report driven by the Gloucester Advocate as community consultation.

Reply: The project was placed on hold whilst options were being examined by the Company. It would have been inappropriate to release information without some certainty as to the outcomes. As soon as information was available it was released to the community, Council and the department at the same time.

The report in the newspaper was not driven by the paper, but GRL.

As previously discussed contact numbers are available via the GRL website. The website will be updated as previously stated as some information is no longer relevant.

ACTION: RC
Update GRL website for accuracy

Q2: Why did it take a query from the public made by myself regarding Dept of Planning web site to Grant for anyone in the community to find out what was happening with the postponement of the project. This includes Gloucester councillors.

Reply: Already covered in previous comments.

Q3: I note a significant downgrading of the Rocky Hill website. Where is the link to previous CCC Minutes. How and when will today's and future Minutes be posted. Clicking the menu button returns you to the same uninformative motherhood statement.

Reply: As noted in 6. GRL is hopeful that details of the CCC membership, meeting minutes etc will be up and running again on the website this afternoon (19/2/16). LA is happy to put draft minutes on the website as long as identified as a 'draft'. Once minutes are confirmed they will be changed on the website as being adopted. The minutes will be placed on both websites, ie GRL and Rocky Hill.

ACTION: RC

Load draft minutes to both websites

General Business (cont):

- Will GRL give preference to local contractors - all competitive services will be considered.
- LA asked participants to hand membership forms in. She advised she would like to expand numbers of committee, possibly the local Business Chamber. She will peruse the completed forms and get in touch with members of the community to ascertain their interest in coming on board. That is keep; historical members of the committee but consider the addition of other interested groups/people.
- LA would like to set meeting schedule for 2016. Proposes to have bi-monthly meetings. Therefore next meeting mid-April.

RD requested LA to contact AGL to see if they intend to continue their CCC as our meeting may clash.

Proposed schedule for 2016 meetings (bi-monthly):

- 22 April 2016 Venue/time to be confirmed.
- 3 June 2016
- 12 August 2016
- 7 October 2016
- 2 December 2016

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:34am.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ACTION	BY WHOM
1	Check records for email he believes he forwarded in March 2015 to participants. If found forward on to LA for distribution.	RC
2	Provide a link on both sites for easy toggling and reference by users accessing either site.	RC
3	Provide Key Insights with individual member contact details.	RC
4	Update GRL website for accuracy.	RC
5	Load draft minutes to both websites.	RC
6	Contact AGL on continuation of their CCC.	LA

DRAFT