

Gloucester Exploration Project COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date:	9 June 2017	10:00am																																											
Venue:	Gloucester Arts Centre																																												
Present:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;"><i>Chairperson:</i></td> <td style="width: 20%;">Lisa Andrews</td> <td style="width: 10%;">(LA)</td> <td style="width: 10%;"><i>Community Reps:</i></td> <td style="width: 20%;">Ray Dawes</td> <td style="width: 10%;">(RD)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>GRL:</i></td> <td>Bob Corbett</td> <td>(RC)</td> <td></td> <td>Steve Robinson</td> <td>(SR)</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Brian Clifford</td> <td>(BC)</td> <td></td> <td>Trevor Sansom</td> <td>(TS)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>DRG</i></td> <td>Evelina Hendry</td> <td>(EH)</td> <td>Gloucester</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Business Chamber:</td> <td>Stuart Redman</td> <td>(STR)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>MidCoast Council:</i></td> <td>Jim Henderson</td> <td>(JH)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Advance Gloucester:</i></td> <td>Lindsay Fraser</td> <td>(LF)</td> <td><i>Minutes:</i></td> <td>Chloe Grady</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			<i>Chairperson:</i>	Lisa Andrews	(LA)	<i>Community Reps:</i>	Ray Dawes	(RD)	<i>GRL:</i>	Bob Corbett	(RC)		Steve Robinson	(SR)		Brian Clifford	(BC)		Trevor Sansom	(TS)	<i>DRG</i>	Evelina Hendry	(EH)	Gloucester						Business Chamber:	Stuart Redman	(STR)	<i>MidCoast Council:</i>	Jim Henderson	(JH)				<i>Advance Gloucester:</i>	Lindsay Fraser	(LF)	<i>Minutes:</i>	Chloe Grady	
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Apologies:	Anthony Berecny – Community Representative & Bill Williams – Advance Gloucester																																												
Non-attendance:	Nil.																																												

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- 1. Opening of Meeting** LA declared meeting open at 10:07am.
- LA** is an independent chair who has been appointed to this CCC by the Minister for Resources and Energy.
- The Chair introduced Evelina Hendry, the Minister’s new representative on the CCC and invited Evelina to explain her role and background for the benefit of the members.
- The Chair asked each participant to complete the attendance sheet.
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- 2. Apologies** The Chair stated there were apologies from Anthony Berecny – Community Representative & Bill Williams – Advance Gloucester.
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- 3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes** **Previous minutes of 7th April 2017 accepted:**
- Moved:* JH *Seconded:* TS
- Outstanding action items:**
- 3.1 CCC Charter to be emailed to all members.**
- LA emailed on 24th April 2017.
- 3.2 Follow up with the Aboriginal elders regarding their participation on the CCC.**
- LA advised that she and RD have been in regular contact about this matter and will continue to pursue the possibility of having a representative of the local Aboriginal Land Council on the CCC as a stakeholder member.
- Discussions ensued regarding the different aboriginal groups/families that have history in the region.
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3.3 Hunter Mine Grazing Study (December) to be emailed to CCC members.

Study emailed on the 20th April 2017.

3.4 Write a letter of support to NSW Mining (Greg Sullivan) to include the Gloucester region in its study program.

LA sent letter of support on the 24th April 2017.

3.5 Forward Evelina Hendry Contact details.

Sent to CCC members on the 24th April 2017.

4. Business
Arising

Aboriginal Artefacts within Gloucester Region

RD sought clarification regarding this matter from the previous meeting minutes as he was not in attendance. It was confirmed that the minutes reflected comments by TS that he had previously found items on his former property, which were not registered with the National Parks & Wildlife Services (NP&WS). RC advised that an independent archaeological survey had been undertaken, but it did not extend to this area. Any items located within the study area had been or would be registered, as would any future discoveries. It was agreed that more artefacts are likely to be found, due to the previous activities of aboriginal groups in the area.

Letter of support to NSW Mining (Greg Sullivan) to include the Gloucester region in its study program.

LF & SR enquired on the likelihood of the study being undertaken in the Gloucester region. LA stated that there has been no response to the letter sent on the 24th April 2017.

RC advised the CCC of the application process and that the approval of a study depended on funding approvals from ACARP. RC offered to follow up this matter with Minerals Council/NSW Mining; however, stated that it may be more beneficial for DPI to extend their existing studies, rather than starting a new one in a different region.

Discussions ensued regarding:

- The return of mining lands back to agricultural farming lands
- Potential effect that these lands may have on livestock
- The need for further studies in relation to potential PCB's & heavy metals
- The difference between the landscapes of the Hunter Valley vs Gloucester Regions and probability of different outcomes/results in the studies
- Improved focus required by government departments to consider health issues and impacts during the assessment process.

LA informed the members that Neil Griffiths from DPI has been invited to come back at the end his current study to present his findings. All present confirmed their interest in this occurring.

5. Correspondence

20/4/17 – Email from JM advising that EH will be the Minister’s representative on this CCC

20/4/17 – Email to CCC members with the advice that EH is the new representative, as well as attaching the Committee Charter & the December ACARP Report.

24/4/17 – Email to CCC members with the draft minutes from the April meeting for review/comment

24/4/17 – Email to RC with the confirmed minutes from February, requesting that they be loaded on to the project website.

24/4/17 – Letter to NSW Mining in support of any future grant application by DPI & recommending the Stratford area

24/4/17 – Email to Neil Griffiths from DPI thanking him for his attendance & inviting him back in the future to present to the CCC

24/4/17 – Letter to Groundswell Gloucester with a response to their correspondence concerning EL 6524 & 6563, as well as attaching a copy of the confirmed minutes

25/4/17 – Email to Groundswell Gloucester with the same information

10/5/17 - Email from Steve Robinson to Bob Corbett asking if the wind sensor has been fixed.

10/5/17 - Email from Bob Corbett advising that the part has been ordered. *RC provided an update, advising that the wind sensor was operational as of the 19/6/2017.*

29/5/17 – Email to members with a reminder for 9/6/17 meeting.

30/5/17 – Email from Stuart Redman (Gloucester Business Chamber) with an apology for this meeting. *(Note: STR was able to attend and present at this meeting.)*

30/5/17 – Email to Stewart Carruthers asking if he is able to attend as the Gloucester Business Chamber representative *(in STR’s absence)*.

8/6/17 – Email from Groundswell Gloucester, attaching correspondence for tabling at this meeting.

8/6/17 – Email from Steve Robinson, requesting his attached correspondence be forwarded to the Minister. *(Tabled at meeting.)*

At this stage LA moved a motion that all correspondence for tabling at the CCC be received by the Chair, no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting, to ensure community matters are able to be effectively considered by all members.

Moved: LA

Seconded: RD

LA then requested that the correspondence, as tabled, be accepted:

Moved: LA

Seconded: JH

5.1 Letter from SR to be forwarded to Minister.

LA tabled an email received and authored by SR, requesting that his correspondence, appealing for the buyback of the exploration licences be forwarded to the Minister. Discussion ensued regarding this matter and whether it was SR's intention for the CCC to endorse his correspondence:

- The purpose of the letter and its meaning was explained by SR, including his concerns with the time taken (11 years) since the EL was granted and for the project to be assessed and determined, which in his opinion has had a harmful effect on the health of residents.
- SR reiterated his concerns that the assessment process does not require referral to the NSW Department of Health and that by appealing to the Minister to buy back the leases, that this would be a solution.
- Concerns were raised on whether by forwarding the letter to the Minister by the chair, that this may indicate that the CCC endorsed its content.
- Different opinions were voiced by some other members concerning health issues and that not all deaths, disease and wellbeing issues in the vicinity can be attributed to the project.

LA resolved that she would liaise with EH on the correct protocol for dealing with the correspondence and the appropriate way to forward the letter on to the Minister/s. Enquiries would be made on SR's behalf by EH on which Minister would be the most appropriate (Resources & Energy or Planning). SR was advised that he would be kept informed on this enquiry. LA explained that the assessment process takes an extended time to ensure that the community has the opportunity to comment on the project and that due diligence occurs. It was important to recognise that the diverse representation on the CCC would have different opinions.

5.2 Health impacts study

Opinions and statements were voiced concerning potential health impacts, including:

- Stress is a contributing factor for ill-health
 - Stress can come from many sources and affect people in different ways
 - Unemployment and struggling small businesses can also experience stress
 - Long and short term residents of the area experience poor health due to a number of factors, not just stress.
 - Health impact should be an essential component for the project's assessment process.
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LA acknowledged that SR's professional interest related to health and understood that his main concerns and contact with the community were associated with this issue.

5.3 Department of Planning's visit on 17th May 2017

RD raised concern that the CCC was not informed or invited to be involved in the visit of staff from the Department of Planning & Environment on 17th May 2017. He suggested that the committee write to the Department expressing its disappointment in not being included; explaining that the whole purpose of the CCC is to be the liaison with the community. **(Action.)**

5.4 Groundswell Gloucester correspondence

LA advised that the letter from Groundswell Gloucester (GG) would be taken on notice, as the short timeframe did not allow GRL to provide a considered response at this meeting. However, BC did want to comment briefly on some of its content:

- The reference to a closed presentation. BC requested further information on this matter; including names, dates, etc to enable a response, as he is unaware of any closed presentation.
- GRL has categorically and repeatedly stated that there is no Stage 2 planned for Rocky Hill.
- Other questions have been previously asked and answered. These responses will again be provided to GG.
- EH will provide a response on behalf of the Department in relation to the renewal of the licenses.

LA advised that answers to the questions taken on notice, will be tabled and included at the next meeting minutes for transparency.

RD advised that he had received additional questions from community members and suggested that perhaps GRL prepare a media release to clarify these frequently asked questions. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

Action: Fact Sheet to be prepared by GRL and distributed to the community.

RD enquired whether GRL was going to relinquish the PEL, and if not, why GRL are not relinquishing the licence for the Stage 2. BC reiterated that there has never been a Stage 2, it was just a terminology to distinguish between areas for exploration approval applications. BC clarified that GRL hasn't changed its position.

6. Project Update
GRL

RC provided update as follows:

EL status - still nothing. The situation remains the same; renewals still pending. Annual Reports for EL 6563 has been submitted.

GRL is continuing to monitor fire damage to trees planted along Fairbairns Road, stating that although there are some losses, GRL will continue to note recovery. There is also a lot of pasture improvement being carried out on the Maslen land leases.

The shed on the former Johnston property has been demolished, as has the former milk shed on TS's former property.

GRL is still finalising its responses to submissions, and expect to lodge them with the Department within the next month.

JH asked if there was dust and noise monitoring in the region and whether there are any reports generated for public review. BC advised that GRL has dust monitors, and he would check if the dust reports are on the internet. **(Action)**

BC further identified the nature of dust monitoring (including two continuous PM¹⁰/PM^{2.5} monitors) undertaken by GRL and that at the present time it is being used for background information purposes. Historical results are available in the EIS.

SR asked if the current leases on GRL owned properties will ever become available and how long are they currently in place for. BC stated that a long-term agreement has been established between Speldon Partnership covering the majority of GRL's land in the Rocky Hill area and that both parties are very happy with the farming and mining coexistence model established. RC said that if any land is to become available, GRL will more than likely go with an option for tendering.

RD questioned exactly when the response to submissions will be completed. BC & RC advised that they will be at the Department within the next month, GRL is 95 – 99% there; however, wish to ensure that all issues are addressed.

7. General
Business

7.1 Department of Planning meetings held on the 17th May 2017 with community groups.

LA asked for clarification regarding the meetings held on 17th May. BC said the Department advised GRL they wanted to visit Gloucester, including the site, for familiarisation purposes, that they planned on meeting MidCoast Council, GG, Advance Gloucester and GRL, and that it wasn't a part of the assessment process.

Concern was raised that that this type of meeting should be combined with the CCC and not be separate. BC commented that the Planning Assessment Commission's consultation and public meetings should address this concern.

7.2 MidCoast Water (MCW) CCC Representative

RD asked for clarification as to why the CCC does not have a MCW representative. LA advised that this matter has previously been discussed. MCW were not invited to provide a representative given that it was an Exploration CCC, however, the project application would have been referred to the authority for its consideration and it would have been invited to provide a submission. Should the Rocky Hill Coal Mine be approved and a CCC established for the project, then MidCoast Council (incorporating MCW) as a stakeholder, would be invited to provide a representative on the committee.

7.3 Additional community questions received by RD and asked

1. Can the CCC see the latest figures for the company?

The company financials will not be tabled. It was reaffirmed that GRL has sufficient funds to deliver the project and will be providing bonds to secure the rehabilitation of the site following the completion of mining; in accordance with the conditions of approval.

2. Has there been any modeling done to look at the likelihood, given the current and projected coal market, of the mine becoming a stranded asset?

BC advised that the mined product is not thermal coal and confirmed the viability of the project.

3. Do they plan to sell the mine?

BC advised that there has been no discussion to sell the mine, but anything can change.

4. Can the company guarantee its projected levels of employment against increasing use of mechanised mining methods?

BC stated that there is no change to GRL's predicted employment numbers and that the proposed mine is too small to warrant driverless trucks.

7.4 CCC thanked Jim Henderson for his commitment to the committee.

RD took the opportunity to thank JH for his input on the committee. LA also thanked JH as the representative for MidCoast Council, stating that his experience and knowledge has been invaluable to the operation of this CCC and wished him well in his future endeavours.

7.5 GRL to provide a presentation or executive summary of the response to submissions.

LA asked the committee and GRL representatives if they feel the need for GRL to provide the CCC with a presentation or summary of the response to submissions.

RC advised that GRL could only provide a brief statement and that given the nature and number of the submissions, it would not be feasible to do a presentation. The response document will be available on the website to be viewed by all interested parties and include a summary. Any further questions can be asked through the CCC.

7.6 Apologies for the next CCC.

SR put in his apology for next meeting and sought clarification on the procedure for alternates. LA stated that there isn't provision in the charter for community representative alternates. It was explained that LF and SR are alternates for stakeholder groups that have been formally approved and endorsed by the Minister. LA advised that if there were any issues that SR wished raised prior to the meeting to email them through and she would guarantee that they would be tabled in the CCC

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:39am with their chair thanking CCC members for their contribution.

NEXT MEETING: 4th August 2017

ACTION ITEMS

1	Follow up with Minerals Council/NSW Mining to see how they have progressed with the application to extend the agricultural study.	RC
2	LA & EH to discuss the appropriate platform to forward SR's letter onto the Minister.	LA & EH
3	Send letter to the Department of Planning expressing the CCC disappointment in being excluded from its meeting on the 17 th May 2017.	LA
4	Formalise a response to Groundswell Gloucester regarding their correspondence sent on the 8 th June 2017.	LA
5	Public notice or media release of FAQ from GRL.	BC
6	Check whether the dust monitoring reports are available on the internet.	BC