

Gloucester Exploration Project COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date:	4 August 2017	10:00am
Venue:	Gloucester Arts Centre	
Present:	<i>Chairperson:</i> Lisa Andrews (LA) <i>GRL:</i> Bob Corbett (RC) Brian Clifford (BC) DRG Jaime Flynn (JF)	<i>Community Reps:</i> Ray Dawes (RD) Anthony Berecny (AB) Gloucester Business Chamber: Stuart Redman (SR) Advance Gloucester: Bill Williams (BW) <i>Minutes:</i> Chloe Grady
Apologies:	Steve Robinson & Trevor Sansom	
Non-attendance:	N/A	

1. Opening of Meeting

LA declared meeting open at 10:04am.

LA is an Independent Chairperson, appointed by the Minister for Industry to chair this committee.

Welcomed Jaime Flynn, Communication Advisor, Community & Government Services with the Department of Planning and Environment.

The Chair introduced Chloe Grady as the committee minute secretary.

The Chair asked each member to complete the attendance sheet and make any relevant changes to their contact details.

2. Apologies

Apology from Steve Robinson & Trevor Sansom.

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Previous minutes of 9th June 2017 accepted:

Moved: Ray Dawes

Seconded: Brian Clifford

4. Business Arising

- Follow up with the Minerals Council/ NSW Mining to see how things have progressed with the DPI application to ACARP to extend its grazing trial.**

RC had previously spoken with Greg Sullivan however, when he followed up with Greg on the application progress, he had left the Minerals Council, RC said he did however receive an email response from the Minerals Council yesterday. LA read out that correspondence, which stated that Neil Griffiths (DPI) would be open to including the sites outside the Upper Hunter region into their study but it would be pending Yancoal's willingness to participate, by allowing access, providing historical data and its adequacy.

RC stated that if GRL were in the position to do so, and received approval, they would like to participate in such future studies. However, until such time as the mine had been operational for some time, it would not be possible.

RC also advised that he is aware that there is a funding application in with ACARP from Neil Griffiths (DPI) for the extension of the study and that has been short listed.

RC suggested that the CCC approach Yancoal and invite them to express their interest in participating. LA offered to write to Yancoal & requested a seconder, TB said he seconded that, and he advised that can raise that with Yancoal's CCC but its next meeting isn't until December 2017.

2. LA & EH to discuss the appropriate platform to forward SR's letter onto the Minister.

EH sought advice and SR was advised by the Chair that it was best he send the letter to the relevant Ministers. Mailing details were provided.

3. Send letter to Department of Planning expressing the CCC disappointment in being excluded from its meeting held on the 17th May 2017.

LA rang Colin Phillips (Senior Planning Officer with DPE), to discuss the matter and express the community representatives disappointment on being excluded from its recent site meeting. A verbal report was provided to the CCC members providing an explanation and history of the Department's commitment to Groundswell Gloucester, Advance Gloucester and Mid-Coast Council on viewing the site and discussing the proposed project.

4. Formalise a response to Groundswell Gloucester regarding their correspondence sent on the 8th June 2017.

LA replied on the 10th of July, which included input from the Minister's representative (EH) and GRL.

Public notice or media release of FAQ from GRL

BC said that the response to submissions is now available online and GRL are currently working on a summary of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). RD requested if a hard copy of the Response to Submissions could be made available at the Library for those that did not have access to a computer, which was agreed to by GRL.

LA requested that when GRL does upload anything to their website, they notify LA so she can send out an email to CCC members to ensure they are kept up to date.

GRL will prepare a media release when FAQ are formulated.

5. Check whether the dust monitoring reports are available on the internet.

BC advised that the reports are not on the website, however, historical/ summary data is available online in the EIS. RC advised that he would investigate the provision of relevant data although there were potential issues in terms of data misinterpretation and a summary may be the most appropriate. AB stated that he did not believe placement of data on the website was warranted but thought it would be good for CCC members to see data from individual monitors, to provide an understanding of background levels prior to mine operations commencing.

5. Correspondence

- 9/6/17 – Email from Ian Jackson regarding comments at the CCC meeting that day
- 14/6/17 – Email response to Ian Jackson requesting further information
- 14/6/17 – Email from EH with information on the appropriate way to handle SR's tabled correspondence
- 14/6/17 – Email to SR with this advice
- 14/6/17 – Letter to MidCoast Council seeking an alternate delegate (staff), pending the September Local Government Elections
- 16/6/17 – Email from GRL with a copy of correspondence sent to Ministers Harwin & Roberts, relinquishing EL 6523
- 30/6/17 – Email from MidCoast Council advising that a delegate will be decided once the new Council is formed.
- 7/7/17 – Email to Ian Jackson with a copy of the draft minutes
- 10/7/17 - Email to Groundswell Gloucester with a response to their letter tabled at the previous meeting
- 14/7/17 - Email to members with information about the renewal of the three Exploration Licences (*ELs 6523, 6524 and 6563*)

Correspondence accepted:

Moved: LA

Seconded: RD

6. Project Update RC provided update as follows:

GRL

As was advised by email early in July, GRL's three ELs were renewed, and unexpectedly ELs 6523 & 6524 were renewed until March 2020, & EL 6563 to May 2020 as opposed to 2018. RC confirmed that GRL still intends to relinquish part of EL 6523 as per their announcement on the 19th June 2017. There was no EL reporting required, or undertaken, and there have been no field exploration activities in the period since the June CCC meeting.

AB sought clarification on the location of the 600ha GRL is relinquishing and BC highlighted this on a map from the website.

BW asked whether this land was owned by GRL and if it would be sold. RC advised that only a component of the area was owned by GRL, that GRL had no plans to sell those properties and that they would be retained as part of the mine's buffer.

RC informed the committee that GRL lodged their Response to Submissions on the EIS with the Department of Planning on the 16th June 2017 and that all documentation is currently being assessed by the Department.

RD asked that if it was possible to get regular updates/media releases to advise the community of what stage the project is up to as not everyone had access to a computer or internet. BC confirmed that there is a live tracking system on the Major Project website (DPE), however, agreed that updates can be provided also.

JF said it is important that everyone understands what stage the project is up to and that is a great way of doing it, and RD seconded JF comments, adding that it is always good to be seen to being open and transparent. BW also advised the committee that Advance Gloucester attempts to arrange for GRL to present at least two meeting a year, their meetings are well advertised on radio, social media and in the Advocate and are open to the public.

RD noted that in the past, the committee has discussed weed eradication on GRL owned and leased land, and wanted to confirm whether GRL has taken any further steps to get their lessee to control weeds. RC advised that he has spoken to the major lessee of the land and could confirm that he regularly carries out weed management and have a weed management plan in accordance with their lease requirements. BC said that they are in the process of implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS) for the land leased to the Speldon Partnership.

RC also stated that where any weed or animal pest issue was identified, GRL would work together with the adjacent landowners as appropriate to ensure program effectiveness.

7. General Business

7.1

AB sought clarification on previous statements that the Planned Rocky Hill Coal Project would produce some of the best coking coal in NSW, and wanted these seams identified. There was a discussion surrounding what seams GRL would be mining, and how they will achieve 95% coking coal. BC explained that any coal seams greater than 200-300mm in thickness would be mined, whether specifically noted in the EIS or not; that seams less than that cannot be selectively mined in practice and will be treated as waste and placed with the overburden. RC also advised that further information on the geology could be found in the EIS and Response to Submissions documents are available on the Major Projects website, or on the Rocky Hill website under the environment tag.

RC asked JF if she was going to be the CCC representative moving forward. JF stated that the Department is committed to providing a representative on the CCC and she was happy to be the contact person until further notice.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:00am with the chair thanking CCC members for their contribution.

NEXT MEETING: 6th October 2017

ACTION ITEMS

1	LA to email response from Mineral Council to CCC.	LA
2	BC to arrange for a hard copy of the Response to Submission to be sent to the Gloucester Library and kept on file.	BC
3	LA to send out copy of GRL's announcement regarding them relinquishing EL 6523 and include copy of map.	LA
4	LA to email CCC a copy of the Response to Submissions document.	LA
5	LA to send link of EIS to CCC	LA