

South Galilee Coal Project Community Reference Group Meeting Minutes

2 March 2011

Date: Wednesday 2 March, 2011

Location: Alpha Town Hall, Alpha

Meeting Commenced: 18:00

Meeting Concluded: 20:45

Chairperson Name: Colleen Fish (MET Serve)

Attendees:

Mark Bouffler	AMCI
Deane Ludman	AMCI
Colleen Fish	MET Serve
Jessie Keast	MET Serve
Brett Harwood	Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP)
Lyn Hopewell	DIP
Warren Gleeson	Landholder
Aloma Everingham	Landholder
Sherri Taylor	Landholder
Beryl Dyer	Barcaldine Regional Council
Judy Acutt	Alpha Merchandise

Apologies: Les and Kayleen Leishman, Brant Bettridge, Lee Clews

Next Meeting: June 2011

Agenda Items:

1. Surface water impact assessment process
2. Social impact assessment – presentation by Lyn Hopewell from DIP Social Impact Assessment Unit
3. CRG member communications

Notes from Meeting:

Item No.	Discussion / Issue Raised	Response	Action	Responsibility
Meeting Administration				
1	Introduction of Lyn Hopewell (Department of Infrastructure and Planning [DIP]).	Lyn welcomed by members.	Nil	Nil
Business Arising from Previous Minutes				
2	CF briefly covered the meeting notes from the December 2010 CRG meeting.	Meeting notes accepted by members.	Nil	Nil
General Business				
3	Beryl Dyer enquired about Bandanna Energy's asset sell-off. Warren Gleeson asked who could be expected to buy out the company.	Mark Bouffler advised that AMCI would assess any offer it received on its merits. Although it is 'business as usual' at the moment, Mark indicated that there is some possibility that the ownership mix for the SGCP could change in the future. There was no way to predict which company/companies may make offers to AMCI in the future, and whether future offers would result in sale/partial sale of AMCI's share in the SGCP.	AMCI will keep the CRG notified of any significant changes to the owners/managers of the SGCP.	AMCI
4	Colleen thanked Sherri Taylor for providing email addresses for most CRG members.	Sherri advised that she can also provide Lee Clews and Judy Acutt's email addresses.	Sherri to provide email addresses for Lee Clews and Judy Acutt at or before the next CRG meeting.	ST

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5	Mark Bouffler indicated that AMCI recently met with the Acting General Manager of Waratah, who was quite helpful. AMCI are optimistic about the relationship with Waratah Coal.	General comment that cooperation between the Galilee Basin proponents is a positive outcome.	AMCI will continue to be open to cooperative arrangements between Galilee Basin proponents.	AMCI
6	CRG members queried whether the DEEDI socio-economic report is publicly available yet.	Brett Harwood will follow up and advise the CRG.	Brett Harwood to follow up the status of the DEEDI report and advise AMCI/MET Serve.	BH
7	Alignment of rail corridor.	Mark Bouffler indicated that AMCI's preference is for all infrastructure to be located within the same corridor. Mark discussed the potential corridors currently being proposed by other Galilee Basin proponents and indicated that the final alignment of AMCI's corridor will depend on which one of these corridors is approved.	AMCI will advise the CRG when an infrastructure corridor/s had been decided.	AMCI
8	Warren Gleeson indicated that he thought it would be best to start consulting with landholders along the proposed corridor route now, rather than wait.	Mark Bouffler indicated that AMCI's approach is to commence consultation with landholders along the proposed infrastructure corridor once we have some certainty where the final alignment will be, so as not to unnecessarily alarm people.	AMCI to commence internal discussions regarding the consultation approach with landholders along the proposed infrastructure corridor.	AMCI/MET Serve

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9	Mark Bouffler asked Aloma Everingham whether she would like to be consulted about the proposed corridor at this early stage.	Aloma advised that she would like to have some initial consultation so they can consider their options and plan accordingly.	AMCI to commence internal discussions regarding the consultation approach with landholders along the proposed infrastructure corridor.	AMCI/MET Serve
10	Brett Harwood advised that Waratah's EIS will be publicly available soon (about April 2011), which should clarify some of the anxiety/uncertainty currently being experienced by some landholders.	CRG members noted the approx. timeframe for the Waratah EIS.	CRG members are recommended to review the Waratah EIS and advise the community when it is available, and provide comment as relevant.	CRG members and community
11	Discussion regarding the current status of the Connors River Dam.	MET Serve will confirm the status of the Connors River Dam and advise at the next meeting.	MET Serve to confirm the status of the Connors River Dam.	MET Serve
12	CF discussed the current status of the SGCP. The EIS is currently being prepared, although the recent flooding has held up some of the baseline fieldwork.	Can AMCI/MET Serve provide update of future works and estimated timeframe for EIS.	Provide detail of upcoming field works at next CRG meeting. EIS is still aimed for submission to DIP by the end of 2011.	AMCI/MET Serve

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Surface Water Assessment				
13	<p>CF provided CRG members with a copy of the presentation for this meeting. The presentation provided information on the surface water assessment process that would be undertaken for the SGCP and the range of information that would be presented in the EIS. The presentation also provided an introduction to the social impact assessment process.</p> <p>NB: all information provided was schematic/generalised at this time. Actual data for the SGCP will not be available until detailed mine plans and subsequent modelling work has been completed.</p>	<p>CRG members were concerned about a number of surface water issues, particularly surface water quality, maintenance of flow volumes, and any impact on flood levels in Alpha.</p>	<p>AMCI / MET Serve will provide specific information in a future meeting, once it becomes available.</p>	<p>AMCI / MET Serve</p>
14	<p>In relation to baseline meteorological information, Sherri Taylor indicated that some landholders have rainfall records. There are rainfall gauging stations at the 'Grove' and 'Rivington'.</p>	<p>This information would be beneficial for the surface water study accuracy.</p>	<p>AMCI / MET Serve to discuss access to rainfall data with ST.</p>	<p>AMCI / MET Serve / ST.</p>
15	<p>Brief discussion of troglifauna/stygofuana and Beryl Dyer enquired what they look like.</p>	<p>MET Serve has photographs of stygofauna/troglifauna which can be provided.</p>	<p>MET Serve to bring copies of photographs to the next CRG meeting.</p>	<p>MET Serve</p>

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16	Beryl queried what AMD was.	CF clarified that AMD stands for Acid Mine Drainage. Mark Bouffler provided an explanation of the AMD process and the implications for environmental management.	MET Serve to review if there is a simplified schematic available on AMD to hand out at next meeting.	MET Serve
17	Beryl Dyer queried if there is way people with intimate knowledge of local drainage (i.e. landholders) can be involved in surface water planning/management. Beryl discussed another mine site where floodwaters had inundated an area that the mining company did not expect to flood.	<p>CF indicated that the consultation process allows landholders to raise any specific issues in relation to the project. CF advised that licence conditions are based on guidelines which are developed by the Queensland Government.</p> <p>Mark Bouffler advised that an aerial flyover of the site has been conducted and the results will be used to inform the surface water modelling and assessment in the EIS. The flyover data has an accuracy of 200 mm so the modelling is able to be quite detailed.</p> <p>CF advised that DERM continues to improve and increase mine water management criteria.</p>	MET Serve will notify the surface water specialists of this comment and will recommend they discuss surface water drainage issues with the relevant landholders.	MET Serve
18	Aloma Everingham asked if process water was released, would it be released with other water.	CF explained that releases of process water would not be a standard practice. If process water was to be released, you would	Nil	Nil

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		<p>typically time the release to coincide with rainfall events, to ensure maximum dilution conditions. Brett Harwood confirmed this, explaining that recent mine releases followed heavy rainfall in Queensland, which provided ideal conditions for discharge.</p> <p>CF explained that any surface water releases would have to be in accordance with the EA conditions and the EA would also stipulate water quality monitoring requirements.</p>		
Social Impact Assessment				
19	<p>Lyn Hopewell provided an overview of the role of the DIP Social Impact Assessment Unit. Lyn provided a presentation, which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Resource Communities Policy and relevant QLD legislation; 	<p>There was a lot of interest in the social impact assessment unit and how it could best ensure positive outcomes for the region.</p>	No specific action.	Nil

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19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key work of the Social Impact Assessment Unit; • introduction to social impact assessment and EIS requirements; • introduction to the SIMP guideline; and • future consultation opportunities. <p>CRG members were provided with a copy of the presentation as well as a copy of the SIMP Guideline and social impact assessment factsheet.</p>			
20	<p>In relation to a discussion about population growth in Alpha, Sherri Taylor suggested working backwards from the end product (e.g. improved hospital, doctor, better education facilities, local employment). Once the desired end products are determined, then its a matter of assessing how much population growth is necessary to get these services.</p>	<p>Other CRG members agreed this was a logical approach but they weren't sure how to go about it.</p>	<p>Discuss benefit of doing a local assessment of population size vs infrastructure/service requirements that they would like to see.</p>	<p>CRG members.</p>

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21	Sherri indicated that it's important to retain quality of life and freedom for local kids.	Noted. And this is relevant to balance out the optimal size of the town.	Noted. Include this as a concern in the social impacts assessment.	MET Serve
22	Beryl Dyer indicated that in order for population growth to occur, the Barcaldine Regional Council needs to have land available to be developed.	Noted.	Noted. This is a consideration for optimal population size in the social impact assessment.	MET Serve
23	Beryl indicated that there is a degree of uncertainty amongst landholders and Alpha residents.	<p>Brett Harwood indicated that the timeframe of the project assessment/approval process is such that the State Government and proponents cannot give people answers with any certainty in the early stages of projects. Even once projects are approved, it's still up to the proponents to bite the bullet and develop them.</p> <p>CF advised that proponents investing significant amounts of money into Galilee Basin projects gives some degree of certainty (i.e. it would be hard for a company such as Adani to walk away from their investment in the Carmichael CoalProject).</p>	Noted for ongoing understanding of community concerns.	MET Serve.

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24	Warren Gleeson raised the issue of increased impacts associated with higher population (e.g. impacts on traffic/road infrastructure, sewage, hospital/emergency services).	CF advised that these types of impacts will be considered and assessed in detail in the EIS.	MET Serve to ensure all flow-on population increase impacts are included in the EIS.	MET Serve
Other				
24	Sherri suggested that if AMCI would like to distribute any information, the Information Centre and the bakery in town are high traffic areas.	Noted.	AMCI and MET Serve will utilise these avenues for displaying relevant information.	AMCI / MET Serve
25	CF indicated that AMCI intend to have a Community Information Day at the Alpha Show again this year. Beryl Dyer suggested making a DVD to play at nominated intervals during the day.	AMCI, MET Serve and DIP agreed this had potential to provide background information to a wide range of people.	AMCI and MET Serve to discuss benefits and costs associated with production of a DVD for the Alpha Show.	AMCI / MET Serve
Next Meeting				
26	The Alpha Show (in mid-May) is a busy time for most CRG members, so best to plan the next meeting after the show. Next meeting tentatively planned for June 2011.	Agreed.	Check dates and confirm final meeting date after the Alpha Show. Send out proposed meeting date, agenda and meeting information.	MET Serve MET Serve