

## Galilee Basin Community Reference Group Meeting Notes

Date: Monday, 10 October 2011

Location: Uniting Church Hall, Alpha

Meeting Commenced: 6.00pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.30pm

Chairperson Name: Jessie Keast MET Serve

Attendees: Mark Bouffler (MB) AMCI

Jessie Keast (JK) MET Serve

Andrew Ellis MET Serve

Lyn Hopewell (LH) DEEDI SIAU

Nui Harris (NH) Waratah Coal

Mike Finlayson (MF) SIA & Development Pty Ltd

Natasha McIntosh Yeats

Andrew O'Brien (AO) Yeats

Sherri Taylor (ST) Land Holder

Leona Bowers (LB) Director of Nursing, Alpha Hospital

Brant Bettridge (BB) Land Holder

Aloma Everingham (AE) Land Holder

Judy Acutt Alpha Merchandise

Apologies: Warren Gleeson, Lee Clews and Beryl Dyer

Next Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for February 2012

Agenda Items: Findings of groundwater impact assessments

Item No.	Discussion / Issue Raised	Response	Action	Responsibility
1	Introduction of new members	Nil	Nil	Nil
2	JK explained the broader scope of the CRG going forward (i.e. the CRG is now named the 'Galilee Basin CRG' and will include representatives from Waratah Coal). The broader scope of this forum will allow more information sharing and provide opportunities to discuss cumulative impacts.	Nil	Nil	Nil
3	JK provided a copy of the revised Galilee Basin CRG Charter and invited members to review and provide any comments/queries.	Nil	CRG members to review the revised Charter and provide any comments/queries directly to MET Serve.	All CRG members
4	JK provided an overview of the methodology for developing Social Impact Assessments (SIA) and Social Impact Management Plans (SIMP).	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>South Galilee Coal Project (SGCP) – Preliminary SIA Findings</b>				
5	JK described the approach used to define the study areas for the SGCP SIA.	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	BB asked why the Isaac Regional Council LGA was not included in the regional study area, particularly as Clermont could be used as a service centre.	JK and MB described the rationale behind the selection of study areas. AMCI anticipates that Emerald will be the primary service centre for the SGCP and on this basis, the Central Highlands Regional Council LGA has been included in the regional study area. JK indicated that Clermont is more likely to act as a service centre for the proposed mining projects located in the north of the Galilee Basin.	Nil	Nil
7	JK described the workforce planning	Nil	Nil	Nil

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	arrangements, including the proposed sources of employees, workforce numbers and transport/accommodation philosophy.			
8	LB queried whether AMCI will seek employees from overseas for the SGCP.	JK indicated that AMCI's workforce planning assumes that all recruitment for the SGCP will be from within Queensland. NH indicated that Waratah Coal would initially seek to recruit the Galilee Coal Project workforce from the local/regional area, but would seek employees from within Queensland, Australia then internationally, as required.	Nil	Nil
9	JK described the potential social impacts associated with the SGCP.	Various responses provided (refer to Items 10 to 30 below).	Nil	Nil
10	ST indicated that road safety is a key issue. Sherri indicated that the cumulative road traffic is already dangerous.	MB indicated that there will be an increase in road traffic, although the significant increases in road traffic associated with construction are still a number of years away. JK indicated that the SGCP will aim to transport as much construction equipment/material as practicable on the existing rail line, to minimise road impacts.	Nil	Nil
11	ST queried what the timing is for the upgrade/bituminisation of the Alpha-Clermont Road.	MB indicated that AMCI is not aware of the timing for this upgrade as upgrades of the public road network are the responsibility of Federal, State and/or Local Governments, depending on the status of the road.	Nil	Nil
12	ST asked whether mining proponents	MB advised that AMCI has consulted	Nil	Nil

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	can lobby the government for roads to be upgraded.	with the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) throughout the EIS process. AMCI will make DTMR aware of the transport routes and requirements necessary to construct and operate the SGCP and DTMR will be responsible for prioritising upgrades.		
13	AE indicated that there does not seem to be any evidence of the government haulage fees being invested in local road infrastructure and upgrades.	Nil	Nil	Nil
14	BB asked what percentage of traineeship/apprenticeship opportunities provided by SGCP would be sourced locally.	MB stated that locals will be considered initially with the prospective source location expanded as necessary to fill positions.	Nil	Nil
15	AE stated that health should be a high priority.	AMCI and Waratah Coal agreed.	Nil	Nil
16	LB indicated that there has already been an impact on the price of housing the availability of rental properties. As an example, Leona indicated that her neighbours' house sold for \$35,000 in 2004, it recently sold for ~\$360, 000. This house is currently being rented to employees of a service provider (gravel company).	AMCI and Waratah Coal accepted this information.	Nil	Nil
17	LB indicated that increased housing costs would have a particular impact on younger people and those left in the primary industries sector. Young people had left Alpha as a result of not being able to rent or buy a house locally and agricultural workers	AMCI and Waratah Coal accepted this information.	Nil	Nil

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	(including jillaroos/jackaroos) may be priced out of the market. Younger people are asking their parents to help them enter the property market.			
18	ST and JA indicated that it was becoming more difficult to attract workers. Judy can't compete with the higher wages on offer in the mining industry. With the mining developments nearby, it would be even harder to attract/retain young people, as they'll likely choose mining jobs over jobs in town.	AMCI and Waratah Coal accepted this information.	Nil	Nil
19	It was generally observed that mining royalties are spent in south-east Queensland, rather than the local area. ST explained that a certain proportion of mining royalties should be provided for the Alpha community.	AMCI and Waratah Coal accepted this information.	Nil	Nil
20	LB enquired about the timeframe for the upgrade of the Alpha Aerodrome. LB stated that the Royal Flying Doctor Service uses the Alpha Aerodrome.	NH stated he had met with Des Howard on 7 October 2011 regarding this issue. The Barcaldine Regional Council (BRC) is looking to progress planning for the upgrade.	Nil	Nil
21	Some concern was raised by CRG members about the capacity of the BRC to undertake the upgrade of the airport.	MB indicated that the upgrade would be a specialist civil undertaking which would probably be outsourced to appropriate contractors with experience in this area.	Nil	Nil
22	LB queried whether the upgraded airport would mean that commercial operator/s would use the airport. This would benefit the hospital/Royal Flying Doctor Service.	MB and NH stated that commercial services would operate from Alpha.	Nil	Nil
23	LB asked whether impacts on policing	JK indicated that AMCI has had	Nil	Nil

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	levels were being considered (particularly to address potential drug and alcohol use associated with mining communities).	discussions with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) about the SGCP and has discussed potential impacts on emergency services, general policing issues and police resourcing. This is particularly relevant as there are long lead times for to QPS resourcing etc.		
24	LB indicated that FIFO workforces usually have few health requirements, beside seasonal impacts (e.g. flu season).	AMCI and Waratah Coal accepted this information.	Nil	Nil
25	LB stated that crush injuries were common in the existing agricultural industries and she anticipates that these types of injuries would increase with the introduction of mining.	AO stated that Waratah Coal has met with health service providers and these meetings will continue. Many models of servicing the mine and community are being reviewed and assessed as to which may be the most appropriate.	Nil	Nil
26	LB stated she has been lobbying for 12 years for health infrastructure upgrades. The Alpha Hospital currently has an ambulance driven by volunteers and no permanent doctor. Leona understands that Hancock has withdrawn site paramedics now that 'high risk' activities were complete. Last week, the ambulance had travelled two hours to the mine site – during this time Alpha was left without an ambulance.	AMCI and Waratah Coal accepted this information.	Nil	Nil
27	LB indicated that establishing an effective ambulance service is about more than just the vehicle – manpower is where they are currently lacking. Alpha needs an Ambulance building and three staff.	AMCI and Waratah Coal accepted this information.	Nil	Nil

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28	<p>AE stated her disappointment that Alpha was not able to obtain a doctor, feeling that Queensland Health thought they were not worth a doctor.</p>	Nil	Nil	Nil
29	<p>BB indicated that the SGCP workforce planning seems to be premised on a 100% FIFO approach. Brant queried whether other scenarios had been considered or assessed, including a split between FIFO and residential workforce. Brant explained that he has lived in mining communities and observed segregation where large numbers of mine workers are housed on-site, rather than in nearby towns. Where workers live in towns in the Bowen Basin, there is a great social atmosphere.</p>	<p>MB indicated that AMCI has considered the various options in terms of the availability/suitability of the workforce, availability of existing infrastructure/housing/accommodation in Alpha and minimising potential social impacts. The consideration of alternatives and rationale for the chosen approach will be documented in the SGCP EIS. AMCI's chosen approach is for 100% FIFO. A small number of senior mine employees will be required to relocate to Alpha (i.e. up to 8 people during construction and up to 6 people during operations). MB indicated that the scenario described by Brant does not reflect the realities of a 100% FIFO workforce. The workforce would fly to Alpha, be transported to the mine site by bus and would be based on-site for the duration of their roster. MB indicated that all employees would be contractually bound to comply with codes of conduct/drug and alcohol policies etc. and would not be venturing into Alpha while off-shift. NH indicated that approximately 28 employees of the Galilee Coal Project would be required to relocate to Alpha. 100% of the Bowen workforce (360</p>	Nil	Nil

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		people) would reside in Bowen.		
30	BB enquired whether the housing needs of contractors will be considered in the development of the SIMP.	MB indicated that the number of service providers moving to Alpha is very difficult to predict and impossible to accurately quantify. Contractors may be offered a contract with the option of living on-site. The SIA will discuss potential housing impacts in Alpha associated with direct, indirect and secondary population growth and mitigation measures will be developed to try address these impacts.		MB
SGCP Mitigation/Management Measures				
31	JK provided an overview of potential measures to mitigate/manage social impacts.	Nil	Nil	Nil
32	BB enquired about SIMP development. Discussion about the possible formation of SIMP development/implementation groups to address specific issues and action plans.	JK indicated that an ongoing meeting schedule/strategy specifically for the development of the SIMP could be implemented. CRG members felt there should be membership/representation by	MET Serve/AMCI to progress this approach.	MET Serve/AMCI

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		<p>decision-makers from local and state government as well as community members.</p> <p>It was agreed that topic-specific meetings should be held, with relevant people to be recommended to attend.</p> <p>For example, a group could be formed to address potential health impacts, made up of representatives from the local community as well as health professionals. Possible members could include District CEO for QLD Health, CEO of BRC etc.</p>		
Galilee Coal Project – SIA Findings				
33	MF provided an overview of the Galilee Coal Project, the existing social environment and the potential positive/negative impacts associated with the project.	Nil	Nil	Nil
34	MF indicated that Waratah would be holding a third round of public meetings in Alpha shortly. Waratah would be discussing social impacts and providing assistance to people wanting to prepare submissions on the Galilee Coal Project EIS.	Nil	Nil	Nil
35	MF indicated that approximately 28 Galilee Coal Project employees would relocate to Alpha, most of which would be senior managers.	Nil	Nil	Nil
36	MF indicated that a range of goods and services would be sourced from the region, predominantly from Emerald.	Nil	Nil	Nil

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37	AE queried where the water supply would be sourced. Aloma suggested that the impacts of extracting groundwater may extend over a wide area and affect grazing properties that rely on groundwater.	NH stated that the water supply for the Galilee Coal Project would predominantly be sourced from groundwater, although other options include capture of surface run-off or access to the Sunwater pipeline. NH explained that dewatering will also be required on the mine site. Detailed assessment of groundwater drawdown will inform compensation for affected landholders.	Nil	Nil
38	In relation to Waratah's accommodation and housing action plan, LB indicated that most hospital employees are agency staff on FIFO contracts accommodated in housing at the hospital.	Nil	Nil	Nil
39	AE asked whether the BRC was undertaking a local development plan. ST indicated that her understanding is that the government will not help them unless the mines are also providing assistance. BB indicated that he feels that the BRC continually looks to someone else to initiate planning and that they must take the first step in developing a plan.	MF suggested that the preparation of a development plan for Alpha would be beneficial to assist planning (both for the BRC and for mining proponents). NH stated that the airport, light industrial requirements and the 28-house development (for senior mine staff) forms the base for the local development plan.	Nil	Nil
40	Some CRG members indicated that they found it difficult to raise issues or get information from the BRC.	Nil	ST and AE plan to attend next BRC meeting.	ST/AE
41	BB enquired as to the public utilities that will be provided in Alpha by the proposed projects and whether only mine staff be serviced.	NH stated that Waratah will supply the power and water needs of their employees living in Alpha, in order to minimise impacts on the existing	Nil	Nil

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		infrastructure. There may be opportunities to improve public utilities.		
42	AE queried which road will be used by the Waratah Coal Project.	NH stated that the preferred route is the current gazetted road; Saltbush Road.	Nil	Nil
General				
43	LB asked what mining methods would be used.	MB indicated that both the SGCP and the Galilee Coal Project would involve both open cut and underground coal mining.	Nil	Nil
44	LB indicated that she would like to be updated with information about the projects as they proceed (particularly in relation to transport routes, safety, communications etc.).	MB obtained LB's email address.	LB to be registered as an interested party for the SGCP, to receive project updates as they are released.	MET Serve
45	JA asked if there is an exclusion area where houses cannot be built around the mines.	MB indicated that there is, but this area is not large.	MB to follow up.	MB
46	NH indicated that he would like to canvas the opinion of the CRG members regarding their appetite for FIFO.	BB's opinion is that 100% FIFO would be best, particularly given the existing infrastructure constraints. Brant indicated that local businesses would be keen to provide services. LB indicated that from a health perspective, she is happier if workforces are engaged on a FIFO basis. AE indicated that she preferred FIFO. ST indicated that she would like to see Alpha grow in order to have improved services, but she does not want to see it transformed into a 'mining town'. Sherri suggested working backwards from what services they want	Nil	Nil

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		(permanent doctor, ambulance service, improved schooling) and what population size is required to justify these services, rather than arbitrarily picking a number.		