

## **RIXS CREEK NORTH & RIXS CREEK SOUTH COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MEETING:** 17/10/2018

**PRESENT:** Independent Chairperson - Lisa Andrews (LA)  
Community Representatives – Reg Eveleigh (RE), Michelle Higgins (MH), Patricia Bestic (PB), Councillor Sarah Lukeman (SL) & Deidre Olofsson (DO)

Company Representatives – Geoff Moore (GM), Brendon Clements (BC) Chris Knight (CK), Chris Quinn (CQ), Damien Butler (Minutes).

**GUEST:** James Barben (JB), Policy Director from the NSW Minerals Council attended part of the meeting to provide an update on the work of the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue.

**APOLOGIES:** Luke Murray (LM), Lyn MacBain, & Hannah Bowe (HB)

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The meeting was formerly opened at 9:08am at Rixs Creek South Training Room.

### **1 Welcome and Introductions**

- The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed the group and thanked SL for all her efforts in chairing the meeting to date.
- Each attendee was invited to introduce themselves and state their position on the CCC.
- The Chair noted an email received yesterday from Lyn MacBain resigning her role on the CCC. The Chair advised that she would follow-up with Lyn.

### **2 Apologies**

- As listed above.

### **3 Briefing of Community Consultative Committee Guidelines**

- The Chair noted the distribution of materials including the CCC Guidelines covering how the CCC will be run. The Chair highlighted this distribution included governance matters such as the Declaration of Pecuniary Non/Pecuniary Interests and the Code of Conduct forms.
- The Chair noted these forms needed to be completed. The Chair also handed out hard copies to be signed and returned to the Chair.

### **4 Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

- Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests were defined and discussed with the Chair providing a number of examples.
- In declaring a Pecuniary Interest, MH noted her physiotherapy business that often assists Rix's Creek staff.

- The Chair provided a briefing on the guidelines regarding recording of meeting minutes. DO highlighted her experience at other CCC meetings, noting her apprehension regarding the accuracy of minute taking. DO noted her preference for an independent minute taker. The Chair advised of the diligence taken with the minutes, her own review and outlined the process for minute taking including distribution and opportunities for meeting attendees to recommend amendments. The Chair stated that it is intended that within three weeks from the meeting the minutes are finalised and published on the company website.
- The Chair moved that a minute taker from the Bloomfield Group continue, noting that the need for an independent minute taker would be reviewed and appointed if deemed appropriate. RE seconded the motion.

## 5 Confirmation of Previous Minutes and Business Arising

- The previous minutes from the meeting of 22 May 2018 were discussed. The record of the meeting was confirmed by PB and seconded by SL.
- Business arising from the previous meeting was discussed.
- SL was to provide further information on feral animal control. SL confirmed Council does not play a role other than as a landholder. SL discussed the committee that runs the Pest Management Plan and advised this committee includes mining representatives. SL agreed to send the details through to the chair.
- CQ discussed Weed Management areas being included in future maps. CQ noted the weed map not included in this time but confirmed it would be included in annual review. SL noted focus on non-noxious pests and the new Weeds Committee that had been formed.
- PB requested that acronyms not be used in meeting. The Chair noted that a list of terms could be included on the back on future minutes. **Action.**
- CQ noted the report that was distributed following the previous meeting. CK asked whether SL has any other questions regarding this.
- The Chair asked attendees to raise any other business associated with the previous minutes. None were raised.

## 6 Correspondence

- 28/8/18 - Email from Secretary - DPE appointing LA as chair of this CCC
- 3/9/18 - Email to members with an introduction from LA and enclosing the guidelines and forms to be completed.
- 3/10/18 – Email to members with the meeting notice & agenda for this meeting

The Chair advised that moving forward, the correspondence report would be included in the meeting notice. No objections raised.

## 7 Proponents Reports and Overview of Activities

Progress of the Project and Issues Arising from Site Visits

- CQ provided an overview of management roles at Rix's Creek.
- Meeting attendees viewed a presentation covering an overview of operations.

- Upon viewing a presentation slide that included an aerial land ownership map, DO raised concerns regarding the mining outside boundaries. CK confirmed this was a legacy matter, noting the history of the Integra operations. He confirmed Integra had gone outside the open cut mine boundary but not the project approval line. CK noted that Rix's Creek had proactively and transparently contacted the regulator to highlight this matter to ensure it was appropriately resolved.
- DO stated her concerns and that she believed the community had been previously misled by Integra. PB sought to highlight that this was a matter from the past that was being dealt with and that PB believed it was not a matter for this meeting.
- GM discussed the work with the Office of Environment and Heritage and the challenges associated with the research process. He highlighted the disturbance came prior to offset requirements. The Chair asked if Rix's Creek has all the information they needed. CK noted the challenges with the vegetation assessments in the past and that the level of detail was different to what is required now.
- SL noted a detailed presentation had been given at the last CCC on this matter but that DO was not present for that meeting. GM noted this was the same presentation provided to the regulator. CK agreed to provide information to DO.

### **Monitoring and Environment Performance**

- CQ provided a presentation on Monitoring and Environmental Performance.
- MH asked for additional information regarding general waste including what it is made up of. Plastic wrap was noted and MH asked SL what council could recycle. SL noted this is not part of council's waste management. **Action: Waste Management Plan to be presented at a future CCC.**
- CQ discussed bio-solids. CK noted MH had been sent information on organic material used as part of rehabilitation as an action from the previous meeting.
- MH asked if the waste schedule can be made available. CK noted an overview of the management system could be provided once complete. The Chair noted that once the plan is created CK could present it.
- In discussing noise, MH noted it had been a very quiet winter. CQ noted there had been 11 community interactions regarding noise and that this was significantly lower than the previous year.
- CK noted attendance of regulatory compliance noise and dust monitoring the previous night. He noted Rix's Creek were fully compliant on all tests conducted.
- CQ discussed blasting. MH asked for an explanation on the ratings and requested that this information and the guidelines be included in future presentations, as these presentations shall be made available for the public to view and the inclusion of ratings will make the table easier to understand.
- DO raised her concerns about previous documents from Integra regarding health matters.
- SL asked about information on the blast complaints. CQ confirmed four complaints related to vibration and one regarded odor. He noted levels recorded were extremely low and that further information had been sent to the community member.
- CQ discussed the one exceedance. He noted that despite this being recorded on a non-approved monitor, the incident was proactively reported to the regulator.

- Community interaction regarding dust was discussed. CQ noted six complaints had been recorded, taking into consideration the high amount of dry weather. He noted the efforts to manage this. PB asked for details of the complaints. CQ advised that complaint information was in the upcoming section.
- In a discussion of culling and wild dog management, MH raised her concerns about wedge tail eagles consuming wild dogs that had been baited. CQ confirmed the process for removal and destruction of trapped wild dogs. RE raised the safety issues with wedge tail eagles taking young stock and domestic animals.
- SL asked about the community communication and coordination regarding kangaroo management. CK confirmed a letter box drop occurs to inform the community.
- In discussions of water monitoring where no issues were reported, DO asked about the testing of a well on G. Cheetham's property, as this was raised at the Mt Owen CCC. CQ agreed to provide results to G. Cheetham.
- Rehabilitation was discussed. SL asked about how rehabilitation was going with the dry weather. CQ confirmed the rehabilitation was doing well, assisted by the latest rain.

#### Community Complaints and Response to these Complaints

- CQ provided an overview of the complaints register. He noted the provision of additional information to community members in resolving their complaint.
- CK confirmed every interaction is registered as a complaint. He noted the open, proactive and transparent approach to dealing with complaints. He noted the positives that can come from these interactions with community. MH advised the Chair that she had joined the committee following noise matters.

***A short break in the CCC occurred at 10:57am and DO departed the meeting for another engagement.***

### **8 Presentation by the NSW Minerals Council – Update on the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue**

- JB noted he was providing the presentation to all CCCs.
- The Chair asked a question on behalf of DO on paperwork provided by UHMD at another CCC presentation, which stated that PM10 levels were safe. DO questioned how this statement could be made when it is difficult to determine the impact that PM10 levels can have on different people undertaking different activities. From an OH&S perspective, she has concerns with this statement. **JB took the question on notice.**
- SL flagged additional matters she would like to discuss with JB in a separate forum. CK provided JB's contact details to SL.
- JB offered to provide copy of presentation. The Chair noted she would like to include it with minute distribution.

***JB departed the meeting 11:33am.  
The meeting recommenced 11:36am***

## 9 General Business

- CK provided info on Rix's Creek South continuation.
- The Chair asked if there were any additional items to be discussed.
- MH raised the guidelines of effectiveness of a CCC. The Chair noted it was a committee that was operating well and that it was the role of a community member to be open to discussion and to bring forth community views in a respectful and professional manner.
- MH queried if meeting twice per year was adequate. The Chair noted the guidelines state the meetings can operate on quarterly basis. PB stated that quarterly was too often. The Chair advised that 'extra-ordinary meetings' can be held, particularly around approvals and extensions.
- There was no other business. Chair noted members do not need to wait for the meeting to ask questions and to contact CK who can provide immediate assistance.
- The Chair provided an overview of the meeting schedule. It was agreed to continue with the two meetings per year in 2019:  
8 May and 16 October.

RE requested that meeting details be mailed to him. **Ongoing action - LA**

## 10 Proposed Site Inspection

Due to time constraints and community representatives' availability; it was agreed that the proposed site inspection would be postponed to a future CCC.

*The Chair closed the meeting at 11:55am, thanking all for their attendance.*

### ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	List of Acronyms to be provided	LA/CK
2	Question on Notice to UHMD – PM10 levels	JB
3	Post CCC information to RE	LA
4	Site Inspection	CK
5	Information to DO regarding Integra previous mining. (Rix's Creek North Mod 8.)	CK