

RIXS CREEK NORTH & RIXS CREEK SOUTH COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MEETING: 16/10/2019

PRESENT: Chairperson - Lisa Andrews
Community Representatives – Reg Eveleigh (RE) & Patricia Bestic (PB) [*arrived at 9.14am*]
Councillor Sarah Lukeman (SL) – Singleton Shire Council delegate
Company Representatives – Geoff Moore (GM), Brendon Clements (BC) Chris Knight (CK), Chris Quinn (CQ) & Damien Butler (DB) [Minute Taker].

APOLOGIES: Michelle Higgins (MH), Dave Moran (DM), Deidre Olofsson (DO),

The meeting was formerly opened at 9:12am at the Rixs Creek South Training Room.

- **Welcome**

- The Chair opened the meeting at 9:12am. SL asked for a copy of the presentation so that it could be provided to Councilors. This was agreed.

- **Apologies**

- As above.

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

- The Chair made her usual declaration, approved Independent Chairperson, appointed by the Secretary of DPIE and engaged by Bloomfield to chair this CCC. No changes to members' previous declarations.

- **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

- The action items from the previous meeting were covered. The Chair noted that action items were addressed at the extraordinary meeting that had taken place on 13 June 2019. Actions included anonymized information on complaints versus complainants, and explanatory notes on fume blast ratings. CK noted this was included in the presentation.
- Actions from the 13 June 2019 were noted. CK confirmed the Biodiversity Conservation Trust link went out with the updated acronym sheet. There was also an action on the Action Plan being on website. This was complete and the plan emailed on 31 October 2019.
- Chair asked if there was other business arising. CK noted the updated website and complaints line in relation to privacy. CK played the complaints line voice message including references to the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998*.
- CK then gave an overview of the website, including the Rix's Creek Environment section. PB noted the easy to understand wording on the website. CK noted the website would be updated in accordance with the new consent as required.

- **Correspondence**

As sent out with the meeting notice on 13/10/19 with [one additional item](#):

- 22/5/19 - Email to members with the draft minutes from 8/5/19 for review
- 30/5/19 - Email to members with the finalised minutes.

- 29/5/19 – Letter to RE with the minutes
- 1/10/19 – Email to CCC members with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting.
- 1/10/19 – Same information posted to Reg Eveleigh.
- 13/10/19 – [Email to CCC members regarding the IPCN approval of the continuation project.](#)

- **Proponents Reports and Overview of Activities**

- **RCS Continuation Project - Progress**

- CK noted the IPC's approval of the Rix's Creek South Continuation Project. He noted that a review of the conditions was ongoing.
- CK noted the commencement of updates to Management Plans that have requirements to be updated.
- CK advised that a request will be made for this CCC to be combined with the new consent.
- CK advised that a community newsletter will go out in the next two weeks.
- The Chair asked about third party (Scope 3) emissions. CK advised that the Rix's Creek South Continuation Project Approval do not have these types of restrictions.
- CK noted the consent provision regarding Option 2. He gave an overview of this using the map on the screen. CK talked to the map and the continuance of mining areas. He noted the Camberwell Pit continues and the area near Dulwich. CK advised that there were no operations in Fallbrook at this stage. PB asked about the numbers of staff in Fallbrook. BC noted we have only pumping occurring there.
- CK noted the protocol between mining companies where quarterly meetings occur to address cumulative impacts.
- CK then spoke about the approval of the Water Management Plan that allows excess water to go to the Greater Ravensworth Area Water Sharing Scheme as approved.

- **Monitoring and Environmental Performance.**

- CQ gave the update on Monitoring and Environmental Performance. He explained the environmental predictive forecasting.
- CQ noted the low rainfall this year. There was significant rain in March only.
- CQ gave an overview of operational noise. Nightly monitoring is ongoing. He noted the low frequency exceedance and the actions that were taken.
- CQ advised of the installation of a new unit to monitor Rix's Creek North CHPP.
- He gave an overview of monitor locations on the map.
- CQ gave an overview of blasting and fume management and discussed the assessment and rating of fume in accordance with the Australian Explosives Industry Safety Group (AEISG) rating scale and colour chart.
- CQ gave an overview of air quality management.
- PB asked about the civic monitor. CK gave an overview of monitoring locations.
- CK gave an overview of exceedances that were reported. He noted all occurred when North West winds were blowing. CK noted that except for one result the PM 10 results for air coming in to Rix's Creek was higher than the air leaving Rix's Creek Mine. PB noted the Crawford's agriculture work and the burning off undertaken. PB was concerned this could influence air quality figures.
- CK gave an overview of weed and pest management. He noted the increase in Galenia spraying.
- CQ noted the May/June wild dog baiting and kangaroo control. PB asked about pigs and whether there were any issues where kangaroos had been shot and left on the ground. CQ said there has been a few sightings. PB noted the high number of wild pigs.
- CK noted the kangaroos and the high number coming into to eat rehabilitated grass areas. CK noted local grazers had been complaining. SL asked who granted the 250 tags. CK confirmed it was National Parks.
- The Chair asked about what the dogs look like. CQ advised of dingo like dogs and some large spotted dogs.

- CQ gave an update on water, noting no external reportable incidents and no complaints received. He gave an overview of monitoring locations.
- CQ gave an overview of surface water electrical conductivity and PH, and total suspended solids, total dissolved solids.
- CQ gave an overview of progressive rehabilitation and noted the recent Resource Regulator inspection and the two Section 240 notices and explained that they did not inspect RCN which was the subject of one of the Section 240 notices. CK gave an overview of Department of Primary Industries study. CK offered to take the CCC to this same area. He noted the active grazing. This area is agisted. He noted we will add another eight hectares to provide further drought relief for farmers. PB asked if we had to remove the weeds. CK said we have an active weed management program onsite and noted final land use is approved for grazing. CK said we need proven grazing grasses. The Chair asked if there is a monetary infringement from the 240 notices. CK advised there is not but there is a requirement to update the Mining Operations Plan. SL asked what the update was. CK gave an overview noting update to rehab objectives and rehab monitoring procedure. SL asked if we gave the DPI rehab assessment findings to the Resources Regulator. CK advised that we did not, however the information on the rehab assessment findings recorded by DPI was provided to the IPC.
- SL asked if the DPI inspections were carried out as part of ACARP. CQ confirmed they were.
- CQ gave an overview of the bulk shaping. SL asked about the area that was re-done. CQ noted the areas that had some Galenia. SL asked about how rainfall impacts rehabilitation. CK said that areas ready to be rehabilitated are shaped and seeded regardless.
- CQ gave an overview of RCN and RCS rehabilitation.
- CQ gave an overview of community complaints. There have been 12 complaints this year. He noted the complaints received in September. CQ advised complaints are down on last year. PB asked about the areas. CQ advised complaints come from three areas. CQ noted the complaints and the actions taken (if any). SL asked if the action taken is fed back to complainant. CK confirmed it is if the complainant leaves return contact details, as complaints can be received anonymously. CK noted the alarms on the sentineX monitors.
- CQ noted lighting complaint and mitigation work undertaken to adjust the light.
- CQ noted all this information goes onto our website. PB said that was a good idea. CK noted that there is no identification made of any complainant for any published information on the website.
- CQ noted the community newsletter, information drops and site tours.
- CK noted the woodland area that would remain with option 2 and offered to take the CCC for a tour out there. This was rehabilitated 18-20 years ago.
- SL asked about school tours and the difference between year 8 and 9. BC noted student interest as did CK.

• **General Business**

- SL noted she would be attending Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (UHMD) Annual Forum on 19 November. Copies of the newsletter were distributed. PB noted it is the same day as the meat and livestock AGM.
- PB asked if anti-mining demonstrations occur. PB asked about the Ross Wilkinson proposed housing sub division development and if this was still relevant. GM stated that he believes there has been no update, but it was approved to go ahead. SL noted it is long term and there has been no development. SL noted it was a change in zoning.
- SL noted the importance of UHMD and the opportunity it provides for the community. Impacts are recognised and work is done to address the impacts. SL said it is unique and something the community could be proud of.
- RE asked about the bund wall and if anything can be done to remove it. CQ explained why it was in place, which was for noise and visual. RE wants to be able to see the gully. CK said the bund was put there as a requirement of the consent. The Chair noted it had to stay due to consent requirement.

- PB asked about bushfire control with rehabilitation. CK advised the last of bushfire mitigation is being completed today. CK noted the requirement for a bushfire management plan for RCS. That will go to the rural fire service for consultation.
- SL noted a briefing from Roads and Maritime on the Singleton Bypass. The public exhibition is forthcoming. CK noted RMS had contacted Bloomfield for information. CK noted a condition in our consent that allows overburden to be taken from site for use in government projects.

Next Meeting

- The same meeting schedule was proposed: Wednesday 27 May and Wednesday 21 October. CK asked if the meeting could commence at 9:30am and this was confirmed. The Chair advised that a site tour would occur at the next meeting and would include the woodland area. Appropriate apparel is required.
- SL asked if twice a year is enough meeting noting the new conditions. CK offered to hold an extraordinary meeting for when the consent begins. He advised the current DA 49/94 finishes 24 March 2019. The committee were in favour of the extraordinary meeting.
- It was agreed that the date for this extraordinary meeting would be confirmed by the end of 2019.
- SL advised of the Back to Singleton 2020 celebrations scheduled for 14/15 March.

The meeting was declared closed at 10:34am with the Chair thanking all members for their attendance.

Action items

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Send copy to SL for internal distribution to Councillors	CK
2	Confirm date of extraordinary meeting at commencement of new consent	CK