

KANMANTOO-CALLINGTON COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (KCCCC)

Secretariat:

Kanmantoo-Callington CCC Secretariat
c/- Susan Wilson, Hillgrove Resources
Ph 8538 6800

Email: susan.wilson@hillgroveresources.com.au

Chairperson:

Bob Goreing
Mob 0418 816 788

DRAFT NOTES TO THE MEETING

25th February 2016

Attendance and Apologies

Committee Members

Present:

Garry Duncan
Fiona Challen
Harry Seager
Kathy Schneider Roberts
Carole Bailey (DCMB)
Steven McClare (Hillgrove Resources)
Alistair Walsh (DSD)
Bob Goreing (Independent Chair)

Apologies:

Bill Filmer
Allana Vorstenbosch
Mark Goldsworthy MP,
Member for Kavel
(State)

Guests:

Dr David Simon, Director, Scientific Services Branch, SA Health
Greg Tyczenko, Manager Resources and Energy, EPA
Keith Elliot, SA Manager, Hanson
Paul De Ionno (Manager, Mining Compliance and Regulation, DSD)

A public gallery of approximately 40 persons was present.

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed the KCCCC and members of the public in the gallery.

The Chair noted the comprehensive agenda for tonight's meeting and proposed that items of priority interest for those present be identified in order to ensure adequate time for their consideration. Three such items were identified as dust, blasting and introduction to Hanson. It was agreed that these items would be dealt with first on the agenda.

2. Confirmation of notes of previous meeting

The notes of the previous meeting of 10th December 2015 were confirmed without alteration.

3. Action arising from the previous KCCCC meeting

1. data from NW dust monitoring to support modelling (item 4)
2. community information sheet on vibration (agenda item 5)
3. KCCCC response to the draft DCMB 2035 Strategic Plan had been forwarded
4. KCCCC Progress Report 2015 report had been circulated
5. new Community Action List (CAL) format had been adopted
6. SA Mining History Group conference planning (agenda item 7)
7. KCCCC Membership nomination process (agenda item 8)

Issues

4. Environmental emissions

4.1. Dust – Standing item

Garry Duncan, leader of the Dust Working Party, explained that he and other members of the KCCCC had received a number of dust complaints from the community in early January 2016. These had been followed up with personal visits to the mine site, conversations with the mine manager and other senior managers and by arranging a meeting and site visit for the Dust Working Party on 22nd January 2016.

Garry acknowledged that the company has invested considerable time, effort and resources into managing dust which added to the disappointment as the community had been expecting a noticeable improvement during this 'dust season'. One of the outcomes of the meeting was to ask Hillgrove to provide a full report on this matter at tonight's KCCCC meeting.

Lachlan Wallace, Kanmantoo Copper Mine General Manager, provided a report on mining operations activity over the summer months and challenges with dust management. He summarised the situation as:

1. The moisture content in the soil was at very low levels due to the unusual climatic conditions associated with El Nino. This placed an increased significance on the availability of low grade water for use as a dust suppressant
2. The availability of waste water supply from the Mt Barker District Council (DC) had reduced from the middle of 2015. Low water levels in Brown's Dam (Mt Barker DC's water storage facility) had also resulted in increased turbidity in this water source which slowed water treatment rates at Mt Barker DC's Recycled Water Treatment Plant and consequently limited supply to the mine. In response, the mine had provided the Mt Barker DC with a floating submersible pump to draw less turbid water from the top of the dam rather than lower down, increasing the treatment rates and improving flow from 15L/s to 30L/s
3. Other sources of lower grade water available on the mine site for dust suppression such as recycled water were also at low levels leading to a general lack of lower grade water for dust suppression. In response the mine had negotiated with SA Water for a supply of non-treated water. A pipeline was commenced in the second half of 2015 with funding support from the State Government. The pipeline was due to be commissioned late in 2015. The pipeline construction was delayed and eventually commissioning on Monday 25th January 2016.
4. Other responses aimed at dust suppression included:
 - spraying polymer over roadsides and stockpiles (total of 11 ha had been sprayed) to bind dust particles, making them heavier and less prone to becoming airborne
 - accelerating 'close out' (finishing) of rehabilitation programs aimed at stabilising landforms and thereby reducing the exposed ground which could generate dust
 - reviewing the dust Trigger and Active Response Plan (TARP) to use real time dust data to be more proactive when modifying or stopping operations. This means that the mine no longer waits for the dust level to exceed for an hour prior to reacting.
 - shutting down mining operations 31 times over the summer period (17 days in December 2015 and a further 14 days in January 2016)

Lachlan said that following the commissioning of the new pipeline there was now adequate lower grade water available on the site to meet the mine's requirements for dust suppression. He showed graphs which illustrated that the improvement has been immediate and measurable.

Action: The Dust Working Party was invited back to the mine site to observe the improved water reserves and the results of the use of this water in the dust suppression programs.

Alistair, the mining Regulator (DSD), presented a report that had been prepared in response to dust complaints from the community during the same period. In summary he said:

1. DSD had recognised ongoing community concerns about dust and this had triggered further compliance and complaint investigations in conjunction with the EPA
2. During calendar year 2015 there had been 11 mine related exceedances in relation to dust. These were concentrated in the latter part of the year consistent with the matters raised by Lachlan
3. The investigation had confirmed the mine's responses including:
 - the mine shut down 17 days during December 2015 and 14 days during January 2016
 - a review of the dust TARP was completed to enable a full range of options including shut down at the first response point to rising dust levels
 - the completion of an upgrade to the lower grade water supply for dust suppression including the supply of a submersible pump to Mt Barker DC and the commissioning of a new pipeline for supply from SA Water

Alistair agreed that these initiatives should make a significant difference in meeting the community's expectations over dust management.

Dust and Health

The Chair noted an inquiry from the community at the last KCCCC meeting (10th December 2015) as to the availability of broad based community health data related to respiratory matters. The Chair had met with Dr Simon (SA Health) who had agreed to look into this matter.

Dr David Simon said that hospital admission data did not appear to be a useful guide based on the varied nature and scale of possible respiratory conditions and the potential for local people to report to any number of hospitals or other services.

He said that General Practitioner (GP) data was very sensitive but not easily accessible due to confidentiality and other factors like the levels of churn in the population (people moving in and out).

Dr Simon said that Universities conducted studies on some community health issues and these usually tracked particular populations over time. However samples in studies he was aware of did not target the Kanmantoo Callington community specifically and any representation of the community in wider studies was unlikely to have included enough local people for them to be meaningful.

In summary there was no specific respiratory data for the Kanmantoo Callington community that Dr Simon was aware of.

Dr Simon said that there were two public health networks (Commonwealth and State) that may be of benefit to the community. He said that the newly formed (Commonwealth) Country SA Primary Health Network may be an appropriate group to engage as they worked closely with local GPs and covered the Mt Barker region.

Action: The Chair was asked to approach the Country SA Primary Health Network to identify an appropriate person to attend a KCCCC meeting and investigate how this group may be of assistance to the community. The KCCCC was also asked to consider any other local persons with expertise in eye / respiratory matters for possible membership on the KCCCC.

Carol said that she had recently considered a health report in her role as Councillor at Mt Barker Council. She recalled seeing references to respiratory matters in this report.

Action: Carol was asked to provide a copy of the report (if publically available) to the KCCCC before the next KCCCC meeting. Dr Simon also agreed to review this document for the community.

4.2 Blasting

Garry Duncan said that he and other members of the KCCCC had received a number of complaints from the community related to blasting particularly on Wednesday 27th January 2016 and also the previous week. Garry said that he had had a number of conversations with Lachlan, Steve and Alistair where he passed on the community concerns. Part of the response was to ask Hillgrove and DSD to provide a full report to the community at tonight's KCCCC meeting.

Lachlan said that the community concerns related particularly to overpressure or blasting 'noise' (as opposed to vibration). This was the result of the mine trialling a different blasting technique aimed at leaving a flat bench at least 8 metres wide at intervals down the rock wall. The reason for wanting this formation was to act as a safety barrier to catch any rocks that may subsequently fall from the rock face and potentially represent a danger to those working below.

Lachlan said that attention to this matter had been sparked by a rock fall recently that, while not causing any injury, had the potential to be serious and needed a response. Safework SA had directed the mine to address this matter.

Lachlan presented a diagram that explained why the previous blasting technique, which involved covering the blast holes with about 3 metres of special sand, caused rounding off of the benches rather than leaving wide, flat benches. He explained that the trial blasts were conducted without the sand covering and while the trials were successful in producing the preferred benches, the sand was not there to muffle the over pressure (noise).

Lachlan said that a condition of the trial was to consult with nearby neighbours about the likelihood of sound levels above usual levels and potentially above compliance levels. This had been done but Lachlan said that in hindsight, the mine should have informed the whole community as a starting point.

Alistair (the mining Regulator) said that Hillgrove, DSD and the EPA had collectively received more than 30 complaints from the community about blasting during this time. He said that DSD understood and acknowledged that the reason for the blasting was for safety purposes but that consultation with the community and the Regulator on this matter was considered inadequate.

Alistair said that as a result of the incident, DSD had issued an Environmental Direction to comply with obligations detailed in the mine plan (PEPR). Alistair explained that this was a very firm response from the Regulator and involved high levels of scrutiny.

Steve McClare (Hillgrove CEO / MD) said that while the mine's intentions were good he understood the community concerns. Steve said that the blasting practice that resulted in the complaints had been stopped. Other initiatives to deliver the required safety for workers had been put in place such as no-go zones for working below freshly blasted faces.

5. Natural environment

This item was carried over to the next KCCCC meeting

6. Master Planning SA Mining History Group's conference 2016

This item had been considered between KCCCC meetings by email and at a Master Planning Working Party meeting convened with Greg Drew from the SA Mining History Group to discuss arrangements for the group's conference in May 2016.

A draft program had been circulated and additional offers to present by KCCCC members had been received from Kathy Schneider Roberts (topic - mining history and heritage / mining towns and tourism), Carol Bailey (topic - examples of mine rehabilitation projects and possible linked-up projects in the region like trails) and Fiona Challen (topic - Master Planning).

Suggestions for involvement by local businesses in the event had been made to Greg. These included the potential for a dinner at Sanso, possible catering for lunch with sponsorship from Hillgrove and perhaps managed by the Grounds Committee at the oval (which is ideally located across the road from the Callington Hall) and local catering for morning and afternoon teas.

Action: The KCCCC confirmed these discussions and asked the Chair to continue to work with Greg Drew on finalising arrangements.

7. KCCCC membership

The Chair reported that all the current KCCCC members had renominated with the exception of Allana and Bill who had changed work commitments that meant they could not continue.

It was reported that two local community members had expressed an interest in joining the KCCCC. Neither of these people was in attendance at this meeting.

Action: the Chair was asked to follow up the interest of these two local community members before the next KCCCC meeting where membership would be finalised.

The Chair said that KCCCC membership opportunities were still available and encouraged any interested community member to speak with any KCCCC member about joining.

9. Other business

New neighbours

An introduction to Hanson provided by Keith George, South Australian Manager

Keith George introduced himself as the SA Manager for Hanson. He explained that Hanson had recently purchased the Kanmantoo Bluestone Quarry on Proctor Road previously owned by Albern Slate Pty Ltd (Bernie).

Keith explained that Hanson was part of the Heidelberg Group - a large, well respected international company with a focus on cement.

Keith said that the quarry would service Hanson's cement plants across the state as well as other purposes like crushed rock for road base. Although Hanson was still settling in so it was essentially 'business as usual', he indicated that expansion of the operations was likely in the future.

Keith said that quarries were traditionally long term community members with a life of 30 plus years. He said that Hanson was keen to establish strong, positive and long term relationships with the Kanmantoo and Callington community.

In answer to a question, Keith acknowledged the shared interest of both the community and Hanson in the safe use of Proctor Road. He said he understood the particular relationship that was required with those residents who lived along or near Proctor Road and was looking forward to getting to know these people in the near future.

Other business

Mention was made of a plan for the Kanmantoo Hall Committee to build a war memorial near the Hall. The Chair was asked to follow up as to how the KCCCC may be of assistance.

10. Next meeting and close

The next meeting was TBA.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.