

MINUTES OF MEETING

STRATHALBYN COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday 22 May 2008

@ 7.00 pm

Senior Citizens Hall, 6 Parker Street, Strathalbyn

PRESENT:

Charles Irwin - Chair	Ben Brazzalotto	Fred Carrangis	Julia Currie
Barry Davis	Mike Farrier	Susan Jettner	Adrian Pederick MP
Alan Oliver (proxy for AW)	Trevor Riches		Gallery 7

PIRSA:

Hans Bailiht	Greg Marshall		
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TERRAMIN:

Jol Jardine	Sue-Ellen Cordon	Joe Mifsud	John Burgess	Andrew Robinson
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APOLOGIES:

Roz Twartz	Anne Woolford	Trent Rusby (Proxy for AW)
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Meeting commented at 7.15pm

1.	<p>Welcome by Chairman.</p> <p>Chairman thanked Terramin for the informative site inspection, which included going underground.</p> <p>Chairman proposed that the agenda order be modified to better accommodate this meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies were accepted.</p>
3.	<p>Minutes of the last meeting 21 February 2008 were accepted as true and correct record of the meeting with one amendment.</p> <p>BB raised the breach of stormwater and silt entering neighbouring lands however this has now been noted in the MARCR.</p> <p>PIRSA's web site for the Terramin area is currently being updated.</p>

Callington Road Widening update

No further changes have been obtained to the original letter requiring the design and construction to 110kph speed limit. Terramin have now decided to commence construction on that basis with design plans submitted to TSA for approval. Lease conditions require these works to be completed prior to any ore leaving the site.

Work will start on the intersection as soon as the designs are approved within one to two weeks time and construction work is expected to take approximately one month.

AP has followed this issue up with Hon Carmel Zollo and further with Hon Patrick Conlon but no amendments have come forth.

A number of trees will now have to be removed to accommodate the extra road width of 110kph speed limit; this will be carried out in the next month.

Dragout Report

The site entrance way has now been relocated to the west (off ETSA's access road) and hence no further reports are available at this stage. The previous reports are now tabled in the MARCR.

Meeting Minutes

The Chairman advised that a link has now been set up from Alexandrina Council's Community Information Database to the SCCC Minutes hosted on Terramin's web site.

4.

Review of Lease/MARP Compliance Status

Chairman introduced this new item to the agenda and he pointed out that it is not the role of the SCCC to do PIRSA's job but it is the role of the committee to make sure that PIRSA is doing its job as regulator and to communicate any community concerns to both Terramin and PIRSA.

This report was given by Greg Marshall – Chief Inspector of Mines

CIM outlined that it is Terramin's responsibility to demonstrate compliance against their lease conditions and it is PIRSA's role to validate the company's compliance as well as raising with Terramin any issues that the community has with the company.

Issues that were reviewed during the 11 April 08 site inspection which was focused mainly on the TSF are: -

- HDPE linings were almost completed; observed the under drainage and leak detection arrangements.
- Construction of the decant tower was underway.
- The under drainage layer on the dam wall that was designed was constructed by a different method than approved in the MARP document. Discussions with Terramin are currently being held for them to show that the method constructed will deliver the design requirements of the MARP.
- Prior to commissioning the TSF, PIRSA will be requiring certification by independent expert to demonstrate that the TSF construction is as per the design that is in the MARP or satisfactory equivalent. This is expected by 9 June 08.
- Silt retention arrangements below the TSF wall were inspected.
- Underground inspection of the new portal construction and the ventilation arrangements.
- Inspected the dragout issues and the progress wheel wash construction facilities.
- During the inspection it rained and PIRSA did observe dragout on to Callington Road, which technically from the criteria of the MARP is non-compliant. Following that inspection Terramin have moved the road west to a new access point to prevent dragout on to the public road. Terramin have been making best efforts in terms of cleaning up dragout, however more work was required on prevention.
- Discussed the management systems that Terramin are developing for ensuring compliance. The company gave us a demonstration of the computer base management system of which the architecture is in place and the standard operating procedures are currently being populated into the database. Compliance with the environmental compliance is still to be done; concentration has been strong in safety but weak from the environmental point of view. These issues will be discussed further with Terramin but PIRSA is satisfied that the company is heading in the right direction.
- A lease condition is that independent third party pier review of the mine design, by a reputable geotechnical engineer must be carried out. PIRSA is pleased that Dr Kevin Rosengren was chosen to carry out this work and in his recommendations he has alternative arrangements for the underground design, which Terramin have since written to PIRSA committing to all the recommendations in full. PIRSA has since forwarded this report to TSA as part of our consultation with TSA for excavating within the road reserve. PIRSA has requested further assurance by requesting indemnify from and against any cost, losses expense or liability of any kind, for the Commissioner of Highways and the Crown and more stringent monitoring and surveying arrangements than are in the lease conditions. Terramin have since written to TSA confirming that they are prepared to accept those conditions. To close this off PIRSA is waiting on a letter from TSA confirming these arrangements.

- PIRSA values feedback from SCCC members. As an example, in the last few weeks we received a note from MF enquiring when the 1:100 level flood mitigation bund would be constructed which was not on our list of checks to follow up and PIRSA has since spoken to Terramin who have now completed this work.
- Mining and Rehabilitation Compliance Report (MARCR) was due two months after the reporting period. Terramin have not met this timeline but PIRSA does acknowledge that the first one is always the most difficult one to do. PIRSA formally received part copy of the MARCR on 15 May with the appendices forwarded on 22 May 08. This document has not been assessed at this stage as the assessment was very much dependent on the information in the appendices.
- An application has been received from Terramin to reinject groundwater from a dewatering bore back into the aquifer in a bore to the south of the TSF embankment. This application is currently with the EPA for assessment as a licence is required for this activity. This work must be carried out in accordance with the Water Quality Policy under the *EPA Act 1993*. *If so done this presents no unacceptable issues and should be allowed (see discussion below)*.
- The full amount of the rehabilitation bond has now been lodged with the Government.

Questions

How is groundwater to be reinjected back into the aquifer?

A dewatering bore is located near where the old entranceway was which is dewatering above the workings and it is intended to pump that water via a pipeline into an injection bore south of the TSF embankment near the explosive magazine location. This is proposed for any excess water that may be generated from the operation. The modelling indicated that this excess water should only last for nine to twelve months. TDS is approximately 19,000, about half of sea water. The proposed rate of injection is 2.5 l/s.

In a previous meeting reinjection of water was discussed and Prof Richard Jewell indicated that this should not be done – are there any comments on this?

This issue raised at that time concerned taking water from the mine and reinjecting it back into the aquifer; such water could be contaminated from the workings in the mine. The current application will reinject non-contaminated groundwater from one area above the mine back underground away from the workings of the mine.

What happens when things do go wrong or someone makes a mistake? What's to prevent water being taken directly from the mine and reinjected back underground?

It is a requirement that the bores are sampled and monitored regularly – baseline samples have been taken and existing water quality recorded. Future samples will be compared to the baseline and any non-compliance would show up quickly.

Summary of current outstanding issues

- MARCR report needs to be worked up
- TSF completion certification to be submitted to PIRSA

PIRSA's next key inspection is to sign off on the TSF which will be prior to tailings being placed into the structure. This inspection will be in conjunction with Prof Richard Jewell.

5.

TSF issues discussed

The TSF construction report is being written at the moment. Australian Tailings Consultants (ATC) have indicated that this should be submitted by 9 June 08, and will include the "As Constructed Drawings" of the site.

PIRSA have asked a number of questions on the TSF to which ATC have replied today; this will be passed on to PIRSA.

Water has been placed into TSF for leak testing – above levels of water were detected in the seepage detection pits which indicated a hole in the liner which was located and the weld repaired. This had previously been missed by quality control. All welds have now been rechecked to confirm that no other leaks are present.

There was an incident with the HDPE liner some weeks ago when the wind coming over the embankment lifted and ripped a section of 100m to 150m, which had to be repaired. Patching and preventative action has been undertaken so that this would not happen again.

A variation in the construction design was made which involved the replacement of the sand with an expanded mesh between the layers. The sand on site did not comply with the grades required in the design and hence the alternative method was adopted; it was impractical to obtain the correct sand from elsewhere. The substituted 4-5mm thick mesh has equivalent drainage properties and is acceptable to Prof Jewell, subject to test results to be included in the construction report to PIRSA, due May 23.

Design sand thickness in the floor was 100mm and the wall is 500mm the flow rates are higher using the expanded mesh instead of the sand layer. The 500mm of sand was replaced with extra thickness of clay in the wall thickness.

PIRSA will review the documentation that Terramin are to provide and report back to the SCCC on the outcome.

6.

Review Of Mine Programme/Actions for Next 3 Months

- Milling operation will commence towards the end of June. The mill operator will start work progressively between the 2 June and 16 June 08
- Power will be connected to the wet plant on 4 June 08
- The crusher installation is on the critical path and is running behind schedule. The crusher has had to be relined and the motor rewired; these additional items were not expected to have to be done.

The ore cartage contractor has been engaged for delivery of concentrate to Pt Pirie and Pt Adelaide. The successful tenderer for the cartage contract to haul the zinc concentrate to Port Adelaide and lead concentrate to Port Pirie is Linke Contracting who will be using a new fleet of vehicles for this contract.

Quote from Linke's web site that may interest members

"Linke Contracting is a Truck Safe accredited company entailing our company to demonstrate that our company works to a recognized Transport Quality System that results in compliance to driver training, driver health, vehicle maintenance and safe management and operating techniques."

- Shipping of the concentrate will commence at the end of August 08.
- First major stope blast will be at the end of July and this will be advertised to the wider community.
- Callington Road widening should commence in about a month; tenders are currently being called for this work.
- Extra security fencing and internal boom gates will be installed in the next month. The visitors viewing platform will be reopened in the next few weeks; this was temporarily closed due to the relocation of the main construction entranceway.
- The start of the mining operation will be advertised in the Mount Barker Courier, the Strathalbyn Argus and the Terramin Community Newsletter.
- The ROM pad is currently holding 16,000 of ore waiting for crushing to commence. This pad is located on a limestone base and lined with clay. All runoff water flows back into the mines and is reused as process water for the operation. Once the plant is operating the ROM pad will holdings will be reduced to approximately 10,000 tonnes.

Chairman Statement

Newspaper reports of Terramin's recent AGM have indicated some considerable upside for the company by stating that this facility could possibly be used for processing material from elsewhere. It must be pointed out that the Angas Zinc Mine mineral lease conditions quite specifically state that the Strathalbyn mine is not to process material from anywhere else on this lease. If it should be desired to change that condition the process would be to go through the same process as for a new mining lease.

Round Table Community Feedback

There are indications that the community has some concerns with the recent press statements indicating that copper may be also mined from the site. The company has indicated that at this stage, there are no intentions to float the 4% copper from the ore. Other concerns about the life of the mine being extended beyond the initial term of ten years, which included seven years of mine operation, have also been raised.

During the current construction phase there has been very little concern and feedback from the community however this may change once mining and processing commences. Blasting and vibration complaints have also been minimal at this stage.

Adrian Pederick indicated that he has not had any phone calls in relation to the Angas Mine which indicates to him that currently his constituents are comfortable with the on site activities.

Council at this stage have no concerns. The main issues from the council's point of view would be the road widening of the mine road intersection, which will commence over the next few months. The council has no jurisdiction over the speed limit of Callington Road although they have indicated support over a lower speed limit in front of the mine site.

The local schools governing council have no issues with the mine at this stage.

The SCCC thank Terramin for today's site visit, which included the underground inspection. The Chairman has suggested that another inspection should be done at an appropriate time just prior to the commencement of operations. JJ indicated that the next visit should inspect the operation of the mill (before commissioning) and this needs to be done during daylight hours. This will give the committee a feel for the noise, operational action and odour at the site. A Saturday morning would suit most of the SCCC.

JJ to advise on the suitable date and time for the Mill inspection.

8.40 – 8.55 Break

7.

Review of Mine Development/Actions To Date

Presentation by Terramin on Quarterly Environmental Monitoring Program 7#

Presentation by Sue-Ellen Cordon of Terramin

Development over the past three months

- The underground decline has extended to 380m.
- Construction of the concentrate storage shed, ore crushing plant and mill are almost completed.
- ETSA substation is complete.
- Waste recycling program has been implemented.
- The HDPE linear has been completed for the TSF.
- The weather station has been operational since the end of February 08.

Quarterly Report No 7 from January to March 2008

Details of the report were presented in a PowerPoint slide format and explained to the Committee.

PowerPoint presentation attached.

Issues arising from the presentation

- Visitors viewing area is temporary closed but should be reopened by mid June as additional fencing work is now required.
- Extra road signage will be established as part of the road widening.
- Lead testing of town children (as recently in the press regards interstate mines) is not an issue with this mine. Testing of employees is carried out as a matter of routine and the results will be presented to the SCCC.
- Periodic wind monitoring will now be undertaken for 24 hours a day for a week. The wind data collected will assist in future noise analysis.
- 99% of all structural construction has now been completed. Crusher roof and small filter bag on the silo still need to be installed. Some noise bundings still need to be completed.
- Future sampling from the Angas River will be taken as duplicate samples so that they can be rechecked if queries arise as one of February's readings returned a result the same as distilled water.
- AWE has remodelled groundwater issues as part of the reinjection submission.
- Tree planting of 200 tube stock have been completed in Simon Taylor's property along the fence line, to the north of Callington Road.
- Tree planting will soon be carried out on Garwood's property to the south of the TSF.
- The local scouts group wish to thank Terramin for the donations that they have received from the bottle and can deposits and this will be on-going.
- 787 people have used the site-viewing platform in addition to twelve escorted bus tours during the past quarter.

9.	<p>OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>The Chairman will send a report to the Minister outlining a summary of the issues that have been covered and how the committee is working. This should be done prior to the official opening of the Angas Zinc Mine.</p> <p>Andrew Robinson will advise the Chairman of the timing at least two weeks prior to the opening of the mine.</p> <p>The SCCC requested that all reports in future should include a contents page.</p>
	<p>Next Meetings</p> <p>Thursday 21 August 2008 Meeting at Senior Citizens Hall @ 7.00pm</p> <p>Frequencies of SCCC meetings are once every three months on the third Thursday of the month.</p> <p>Future meeting dates are: - Thursday 20 November 2008 Thursday 19 February 2009 Thursday 21 May 2009 Thursday 20 August 2009</p>
	Meeting closed 9.40pm.