

# MINUTES OF MEETING (Draft)

## STRATHALBYN COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday 20 February @ 7.00 pm  
Senior Citizens Hall, 6 Parker Avenue, Strathalbyn

### PRESENT:

Charles Irwin (Chair)      Fred Carrangis      Malcolm Twartz      Mark Dale  
Rhonda McCarthy      Julia Currie      Mike Farrier      Susan Jettner  
Matt Osborne - Sec

### DMITRE:

Hans Bailiht      Birgit Porter (GHD)

### TERRAMIN:

Matt Daniels      Joe Ranford

### EPA:

Peter Reilly

### APOLOGIES:

Ben Brazzalotto      Adrian Pederick      Karen Rogerson      Anne Woolford  
Greg Marshall

Gallery - 10 people (5f/ 5m) including Terramin staff, Mike Riley (communications) and Executive Director.

### 1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Meeting started 7:05pm

Charles welcomed the session, provided apologies and welcomed Peter Reilly and Birgit Porter.

Brian White no longer coordinator at EPA.

### 2. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Issue: Calling a trial a pseudo trial in minutes was harsh.

Response: This was the terminology used at the time, minutes to stand as read.

Minutes of last meeting were accepted by consensus.

Action item completed: Charles sent thank you letter to Merri

### 3. DMITRE: COMPLIANCE OVERVIEW - Compliance and Inspections report

#### Hans Bailiht

- Production has stopped on site, moved to care and maintenance.
- DMITRE has visited a number of times
- Nothing happening on site
- Interim PEPR in the assessment process, ready for circulation. .
- TSF water level is virtually dry (approximately 2000m<sup>2</sup>, 150mm deep, pH averaging neutral)

#### Question/Comment -

No questions

### 4. TERRAMIN: UPDATE AND REVIEW (presentation available on website)

#### Joe Ranford

- Care and maintenance at the moment
- Onsite infrastructure being maintained
- PEPR has been submitted, but care and maintenance addendum to follow; to be circulated for SCCC comment prior to May meeting
- Working on the closure plan in consultation with DMITRE
- 18,000m<sup>3</sup> of water injected into the mine void
- Water level at recent sampling was at the 190RL.

## Corporate Changes

- New additions to Matt's team (Two Students assisting with reports)
- 5 employees on site

## Site Program

- Continuing with general site clean-up and recycling
- Environmental, water and dust management
- TSF management
- Mine void AMD management
- Process to go underground in place
- Quarterly underground inspection (involves checking for fallen objects, condition of supports and assessing geotechnical stability)

## Upcoming Events

- In discussion with SACOME re holding underground rescue competitions at Angus
- TSF audit
- MARCR completion
- PEPR update
- Recycling ongoing

## Quarterly Environment Report #28 (October to December 2013) – key issues

### Matt Daniels

- Fencing in western paddock completed
- Weed survey and control (spring and summer) completed
- Supplementary watering of native veg seedlings
- Dust management
- Recycling campaign
- Regular underground inspection (water pH 7.4)
- Underground Waste rock has been covered by water, (30,000m<sup>3</sup> put underground between October, 2013 – January, 2014)
- 93% of voids filled
- Water recharge is following modelled rates
- Native vegetation plantings survive hot weather
- No incidents or community complaints
- Noise levels compliant
- TSF water quality Feb 13 – pH 6.3, after rain event pH 4.5 (potentially from oxide materials washed in during rain), today (20/02/14) 8 samples were taken from the surface at different sites pH ranged between 6.2 and 8.1

## Upcoming Activities

- Recycling company working on site
- TSF audit
- MARCR nearing completion
- PEPR submitted
- Dust, water and erosion management continuing.

## Questions

*Is layering of water pH expected? 7.4ph may not be representative of the whole water column?*

- Potential to use water bottle technique to sample pH at various depths.
- Cone of depression in water table will contain any potential low pH water at the bottom of the mine.

*Will piping around STEDS ponds be removed?*

- The removal of the piping is in the plan.

*Were the STEDS ponds used for excess water at any stage?*

- Yes, but not for a number of years and never in the wetlands.

## **TSF CAPPING OPTIONS**

- Potentially an engineered soil cover would provide a better outcome in the longer term than a HDPE cover.
- Technical experts have been engaged to analyse and conduct a Failure Modes Effects Analysis to be included in the Closure Plan (but yet to be submitted to DMITRE).

### **Questions**

*Is it too early to know the preferred outcome?*

- Modelling suggests an engineered soil cover is superior in the long term.
- The company is committed to HDPE liner, the next stage is to apply to DMITRE to switch to an engineered soil cover solution.

*Are there other cover options?*

- 5 were assessed, the engineered soil cover is considered the best solution.

*What is considered world's best practice?*

- This is a changing thing. The HDPE was the preferred option as it seals off the tailings. The store and release systems are now being accepted as solutions to waste dumps and tailings dams.
- The site specifics mean different solutions work better in different areas. The location specifics have been analysed and incorporated into the design.

*On the CD provided by Terramin it stated there would be no release of tailings water over the TSF and Terramin would maintain this indefinitely (also a lease condition). The HDPE was a long-life, sealed system solution, now the dynamics are being changed. How do you address the lease conditions in a store and release system?*

- The engineered solution also prevents leaks and is designed to prevent acid mine drainage from leaving the site. This was developed to mimic an environmental system that provides the same outcomes of the plastic liner. Both cover options are designed to meet the lease conditions.

*Is there anywhere in world where an engineered soil cover has been in place for long time, and is there information to assess the effectiveness?*

- There are several papers written and an upcoming conference where Mike O'Kane (technical expert) will be presenting.

*Theoretically, 20 years down the track and after large trees have infiltrated the site, a tree falls over and leaves a large hole. How will the design cope with this?*

- The system is designed to cope with these events. A HDPE system would not cope in that situation.

*Who will be responsible to maintain the site in 20-30 years' time?*

- The solution is designed to look after itself as long as drainage functions. Terramin will be responsible for maintenance in the foreseeable future. Requirements will be placed on the title of the land specifying conditions to maintain the cover for any potential future land owner.

*Are there any trials in Australia?*

- A similar trial is running at McLaren Vale but only for 4 years.

*DMITRE will assess the modelling provided by Terramin by referring it to world leading expertise (O'Kane). There will be an assessment of the change from a double lined to the new system.*

- Risk assessments have investigated the effectiveness of the engineered soil solution and it is understood to be superior to the HDPE cover.

**Charles' Summary:** *The lease conditions remain current and will be complied with. At the moment we have plastic cap system (subject to testing) which will be implemented on closure unless an alternative is approved. The company is currently exploring a Phytocap (engineered soil cover) system. Once modelling results have been obtained for this option they will be supplied to DMITRE*

and potentially EPA. Individual members may undertake independent research to further inform themselves. The SCCC will await advice from the experts. We have not seen the consultant reports, are these likely to be available several weeks prior to the May meeting?

- Terramin: It is planned to have the information to the group a few weeks before the May meeting.

DMITRE: Given the work on the Phytocap, we have engaged O’Kane Consultants to review the document. It is possible to distribute to the SCCC at the same time as the experts however people must be aware that the documents may change given pending the response from the experts. Those people interested in the scientific data are invited to receive the data at the same time as the experts.

There is an information gap on this issue. The committee wants to provide input. Consultant reports are expected prior to the next meeting and perhaps a presentation of an executive summary.

Terramin: We could provide information on the effectiveness of the engineered soil cover at the next meeting. There is a commitment to provide the best cover solution for the TSF.

Information is required on the land management requirements and conditions to be put on the title should also be presented along with at least an executive summary of the Phytocap option.

- Land management agreements are the suggested system to proceed with in the future.
- DMITRE support land management agreement as a preferred option to a caveat on the Title.

Will we see something by next meeting?

**Action item: Terramin to provide executive summary of cover options, consultant reports and expert opinions and an example land management agreement framework prior to further discussion the next meeting (May, 2014)**

Original solution was controlled, the new system has less controlled surface management, with Australian conditions there are unique situations that may not be replicated elsewhere in the world. Have you considered plant roots going through the cover?

- The engineered soil cover is designed to allow for root penetration.

By engineered soil, do you mean compacted?

- There are parameters of compaction that need to be met. The soil will not be so compacted that plants are not able to grow.

## **5. DMITRE / Terramin: PEPR Review/Care and Maintenance/Mine Closure Planning**

### **DMITRE – current situation, progress to date**

- Closure plan bound up in discussions.
- Care and Maintenance plan is being updated in response to DMITRE comment, awaiting input from EPA.
- PEPR in final stages of assessment

**Action Item: Terramin to distribute completed PEPR including accepted Care and Maintenance plan to the SCCC.**

### **Questions**

No questions

## **6. POST CLOSURE LANDUSE OPTIONS**

### **Update on Progress**

- Still on hold

### **Questions**

No Questions

## **7. TERRAMIN: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

### **Newsletter, Website and any other publicity**

- New newsletter coming out in a week or so,
- Main message is site stability, back filling (93%)
- Covering executive summary of QER,
- Site visits
- The Argus is expected to be the only distribution source

## **8. Other Business**

### **Round table discussion - any other issues not raised above.**

*Fred: In regards to mine inspections, to what degree, level and safety is this possible?*

- We go down the main drive to the water level. Temporary air supply is in place. Underground inspection plan is in place. Visits only go to a limited depth.

*Sue: In figure 1 there was a lot of infrastructure left behind, was this not feasible to remove?*

- No, cost prohibitive.

*Sue: Was the regional exploration information required in the report?*

- Regional exploration has been in place in previous reports,
- Exploration will continue, if the zinc price improves alternative deposits may be investigated.

*What does the price of Zinc need to be to reopen the mine?*

- \$2500-\$3000/tonne to possibly reopen the mine.
- Currently \$2000-\$2100/tonne.

*How quickly to bring the mine back online if prices rise?*

- Roughly 6 months

*Would you have a workforce available?*

- It is likely, people like Strathalbyn.

Break taken at 8:20pm

Session resumes 8:35pm

## **9. Review of Terms of Reference (ToR)**

### **Update and progress – GHD feedback and presentation – Birgit Porter**

- The document is a guide and is not going to be a prescribed Terms of Reference (ToR) imposed on communities and companies.

### **Questions and comments from around the table on each section of the draft:**

*What is IAP2?*

- IAP2 is a best practice community engagement framework
- Aims and objectives
  - Agree with the 'timeliness' issue, and supplying information 6-7 days prior
  - Community trust and confidence was poor initially, worked hard to resolve
  - 'No surprises' point was good
  - As a member of the CCC it's not my role to provide information but to receive and disseminate back to the community. I present opinions and provide comment, not provide information. Prefer wording 'to receive information and provide comment'.
  - Point two, communication needs to be two way (feedback back and forth). Suggested wording 'to provide a forum for the both parties (company and CCC) to provide feedback'.

- Preamble says CCC should be started prior to poor publicity or animosity. In Yorke Peninsula there was animosity as soon as community perceived there may be a mine. This is sometimes unavoidable.
- Roles of a CCC
  - *Birgit - Need to recognise the importance of other forms of community consultation through a communication plan.*
  - The guys out at Mindarie were mostly farmers, different to this CCC because they didn't have the experience.
  - *Birgit – CCC may not be appropriate in all situations*
  - Need to include 'concerns or issues' following environmental, in the first point.
- Role of chair
  - Initially the Chair was going to communicate with mining Ministers and we weren't to communicate with Ministers. We expect the chair to have access and represent us.
  - *Birgit - If an independent facilitator was present would that suffice*
  - A mine appointed facilitator would not be acceptable to the CCC.
  - The facilitator should 'have some teeth' and be able to pull the company up.
  - Previous chair was a political appointment. He reported once a year to the Minister on CCC effectiveness and concerns. He represented the community to the Minister and expressed CCC concerns regarding the company.
  - He had access that certain people may not have and was independent from the company. He could not be fired by the company.
  - You need a skilled and experienced person that has access to Government Departments and is completely independent from mining companies.
  - Under 7: the role of the media spokesperson should be included. Chair should be the nominated media spokesperson.
  - Point of correction: Previous appointment was not political. He was appointed as a respected person in the community that could guide the group to a suitable outcome.
- Role of company representative
  - The company has improved the way it presents information over time.
  - *Terramin – This is the approach we are taking.*
  - To add to communication: I would like to see system of supplying equipment i.e. ipads, as a resource to support CCC members. It is an easy resource to support meetings and have access to relevant information.
  - Yearly mine inspection should be changed to 'as required or requested'
- Role of CCC member
  - Sometimes difficult to differentiate personal concerns to broader community issues,
  - Not good to have an image of a CCC member. If being a group representative is required, you are likely to have similar people and perhaps some that are unwilling to attend.
  - Better to focus on the skill sets and knowledge base not 'who they represent'.
- Secretariat function
  - *Birgit – This is talking about meeting notes more than minutes, capturing the essence of conversations and recording actions, timelines and deadlines. Different to what is occurring here, with meetings being recorded.*
  - Here meetings are recorded to assist secretary record the minutes.
  - *Birgit – These Terms of Reference guidelines talk about simplifying the minutes to key issues and actions.*
  - Early on there was a need to record a lot of technical information, it was useful to record conversations for CCC reference. It is a public meeting, why not record it?
  - *Birgit – up to CCC to decide, some people are not comfortable with being recorded.*
  - From a company perspective the notes or audio are useful to respond to technical questions and develop responses for the CCC and DMITRE.
  - If a meeting is being recorded it needs to be declared at the start of the meeting
  - Secretarial function funded by mining company is not a problem, however who does the meeting notes?
  - *Birgit – up to chair to review notes, and CCC to accept at the next meeting. The secretariat to be appointed by the CCC, paid for by the company (not a company employee) and reporting to the Chair.*
- Values and behaviours
  - No comments

- Membership
  - No comments
- The chair
  - Who does the review every 2 years? Need to reference the CCC as the decision makers on the effectiveness of the chair.
  - Is there a register of conflicts of interests?
  - This occurred verbally at the beginning stages of the CCC. There was one review. Chair has not felt it had impacted discussion. Register of conflict of interest should be included and minuted.
- Member recruitment and selection
  - Within recruitment, could add section on attendance requirements and responsibilities (included later)
  - Who chooses the 2 community reps?
  - *Birgit - Coordinated by the company following the approved communication plan*
  - Couldn't this be biased by the company?
  - Usually there is a public meeting at mine start-ups, those people should be involved in the selection of the CCC members
  - *Birgit - how do you formalise this process?*
  - The selection committee should determine the CCC membership.
  - *Birgit – currently the recommended Qualifications of a member includes the need to reside in the 'local area'.*
  - 'Local area' (e.g. township, regional, state) has not been defined in this context.
  - People should not be required to demonstrate how they disseminate information to the wider community.
  - Terramin - As a company it would be good to know how the group gets the message out to the broader community.
- Terms of appointment
  - No comments
- Operations
  - 50% was not considered enough, also depends on the situation and how many meetings occur per year.
  - Process and ability to resign has not been included.
  - *Birgit – how much time prior to a meeting would you like reports and agenda's?*
  - Depending on what is being reported and the size of the report.
  - Minutes of meeting within a week (included), members to be provided electronic copies via email.
  - Agenda 7 days prior to meeting, reports (especially large reports) provided 3-4 weeks prior to meetings to allow adequate time for review.
  - Criteria for membership - to have access to email.
  - Accessing agenda's/minutes via a website/portal does not work.
  - Members abilities to provide items to agenda in guidelines
    - Agenda does allow for members to include items at the end of the meetings
    - Potential for members to make a request prior to agenda being sent out
- Training
  - Needs further clarification 'information needs to be provided', Suggested wording: 'Will have access to training or information'
  - *Terramin - From a company perspective, we will provide experts to discuss and explain topics.*
  - *Terramin – suggested wording 'If specific items are required the company must endeavour to provide suitable training for that, either by an employed expert or external expert'*
  - Including 'funding' is a concern, it's up to the company to provide experts. Including the word 'funding' opens the floodgates.
  - Focus should be company support training and capacity building, not providing funding.
  - The costs to visit other mines should be the responsibility of individual CCC members.
- Funding
  - Need to change terminology of chair selection from 'company' to 'CCC' selection
- Communication

- No comments
- Media
  - Support for dot point 3
  - Chair should question the gallery if any media is in attendance. This should occur at the start of all meetings.

**Next steps**

- Presentation at the Murray Mallee in March
- Further feedback is welcomed via written notes on the draft ToR or email to Hans.
- The broader DMITRE Guidelines on community development is underway. This will be out for comment in a few months.
- The draft ToR will be edited in response to feedback they will then go out for broader public comment.

**General Comments**

- Reiterate don't be too prescriptive of CCC member
- Minutes should be comprehensive, just dot points is a lazy way to go about it.
- Appreciate document development
- Regards to community representatives, it occurs in small communities. Better to have Community representatives representing the area not just businesses, groups or clubs.
- *Terramin – Further structure is required around company payments*

*Will relevant information presented at the upcoming conference be supplied at the next SCCC meeting?*

- Matt will go and have access to all the conference papers. It is possible to send 1 or 2 representatives from the CCC to attend relevant session/s. Further information on the cover options will be supplied at the next meeting.

**Charles' comments**

CCC's are not for every situation, however they can be useful when things get messy. It is important to have an independent chair with a structured and transparent appointment and reporting structure. The 'role' of CCC should be included: our role is advising the Minister (people representative and regulator). If chair appointment and payment is directly by the company it will not work. It is important that the Chair understands their powers, (chair is able to request specialist expertise and DMITRE and EPA to attend). I will mark up a copy of the Draft ToR and send to DMITRE and I encourage all SCCC members to do the same.

**10. FUTURE MEETINGS AND CLOSE.**

Thanks to Don and Ruth for refreshments and to Matt for taking the minutes. Meeting closed 10:13pm

**Next Meeting May 15, 2014, at 7:00pm, Parker Ave. Hall.**

**Future Meetings: August 12 (by email?) and November 20**

We should have received reasonable reports, including consultant reports. Possible to have the August meeting by email.

**Action List**

<b>Terramin</b>	Terramin to provide executive summary of cover options, consultant reports and expert opinions and an example land management agreement framework prior to further discussion at the next meeting (May, 2014)
<b>Terramin</b>	Terramin to distribute agreed PEPR including agreed Care and Maintenance plan to the SCCC.