

MINUTES OF MEETING (Final)

STRATHALBYN COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday 21 November @ 7.00 pm
Senior Citizens Hall, 6 Parker Avenue, Strathalbyn

PRESENT:

Charles Irwin - Chair	Anne Woolford	Susan Jettner	Mike Farrier
Malcolm Twartz	Mark Dale	Karen Rogerson	Adrian Pederick
Julia Currie (later)	Rhonda McCarthy	Matthew Osborne	

DMITRE:

Hans Bailiht

TERRAMIN:

Matt Daniels Joe Ranford

EPA:

APOLOGIES:

Ben Brazzalotto Fred Carrangis Greg Marshal

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Meeting started 7:00pm

Charles Irwin welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending. Apologies were provided and accepted as outlined above. Matthew Osborne was introduced as the new secretary.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of last meeting were accepted by consensus.

3. DMITRE: COMPLIANCE OVERVIEW - Compliance and Inspections report

Hans Bailiht

The operation is now in care and maintenance. The TSF and water was felt by DMITRE to be under control, therefore Terramin's reporting requirements have reduced from weekly to monthly. Water in the TSF could possibly dry out completely in January.

Risk assessment has been undertaken on the TSF, DMITRE have reviewed and provided comments to Terramin. Terramin have addressed comments and resubmitted to DMITRE. Going forward this needs to be incorporated into a PEPR which will also address mine closure. A draft has been circulated to the SCCC. Comments will be provided under agenda items 5 and 6.

Site has been cleaned up as per site inspection today

Question/Comment -

Nil

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

Joe Ranford

What is happening at the Angas Mine?

- Site is now going into care and maintenance. There is still reserve to be mined however we require higher zinc prices for mine to be activated again.
- Equipment has been prepared for storage.
- Further clean up around the site
- Monitors have been put into the pseudo-trial cover ground. Matt Daniels to expand later.

Mining and Processing

- Looking at getting the mine active again in the future, supporting the local economy.

- 60% of workforce has been employed elsewhere since ceasing of mining operations. 6 will remain on site.
- A lot of work was done to get waste material underground. Still some material left for other projects.
- Underground fill expectation was 92% fill, we achieved 93% fill.
- Safe work SA approached mine to hold mine rescue competitions.
- Terramin has acquired 100% of Bird in Hand project, gold resource is hosted in carbonate bedrock. Potential to utilise waste carbonate in the Angus site rehabilitation.

Quarter Report

- Development completed to the 380 level, water estimated at sitting at the 360 level. Water is being pumped in to fill void and reduce oxidation.
- 98,110 tonnes of ore processed, good lead grades from ore body, 10,933 tonnes of zinc concentrate and 6,148 tonnes of lead copper concentrate
- Total ore mined to date (EOM Sept 2013) 1,989,251 tonnes

AZM fast facts

- Commenced mining in March 2007
- 119 full time employees, 115 made redundant
- 120,000 tonnes of Zinc, 46,500 tonnes of Lead and 1,584,461 ounces of Silver produced
- Remained operating despite the GFC induced zinc price fluctuations, from \$5000/tonne to a low of \$1500/tonne
- Water management was a challenge, successfully addressed
- \$273 million into the state economy
- Entered Care and Maintenance in October 2013

Questions

Of the \$273 million how much went to state government as a royalty?

Standard rate is currently 3.5%, for the first 7 years there is a discounted rate.

Quarterly Environment Report #27 (July to September 2013) – key issues

Matt Daniels

- Updated mine closure plan sent to SCCC, still in draft.
- Fencing for hares put in place around SEB areas
- Weed control and fire management works
- Native seed collection and heritage tree photo monitoring
- TSF ET cap pseudo trial established and seeded over old dump site with moisture monitors and logger
- Recycling campaign for onsite waste management in preparation of Care and Maintenance phase.
- Extractive PEPR drafted and submitted

Questions

Will there be a report for the pseudo trial and was there a control?

Yes there will be a report. There was no control. We have soil samples of where the monitors are located that we will have tested to see the particle sizes. The monitors will measure moisture content in the soils.

Could be classed as an interest only trial?

Yes, that's why it was called a pseudo trial. Not pure science, more of a field trial.

Is there a slope or is the surface flat?

There is a slight slope towards the camera

Tours

We have had several tours come through in past 3 months, SACOME, Tafe and university groups.

Community feedback and environmental incidents

- No environmental incidents were recorded during quarter 3

- 9 registered community complaints:
 - Nine noise complaints from three local residents regarding noise at night
 - Three possibly from the paste plant, appeared to originate from the vibrator fitted to the hopper
 - Five most likely from waste rock being loaded onto trucks and transported underground
- No registered community complaints during the October
- Noise monitoring was conducted last week, interested to see results, expected to be compliant as there has been minimal work conducted on site.

September noise monitoring: Several early mornings exceeded noise limits, however still in compliance.

TSF decant pond remains in compliance, current surface area <4000m² at RL 66.86 on the 19th of November.

Upcoming activities

- Finish fencing of hares out of SEB paddocks
- Update closure plan,
- Recycling of scrap steel, vehicles and plastics.
- Dust, TSF, water management and injecting bore water into the mine void.
- Rehabilitation of exploration drill holes.
- Ongoing weed and pest management
- Landfill restoration and water trucking and erosion works.

Mine Closure Plan

URS report has the modelling of water that may answer some of the concerns raised on site. North domain will remain council owned MCP

- The first stage plan is with the SCCC for comment, have incorporated FMEA risk assessment workshop identified risks and mitigation strategies
- The ML is split into four discrete domains, each with its own final land use plan
- Some general comments on each domain is below

North Domain

- Land use will remain a council matter (council land)
- 2 drill holes to be grouted, geotechnically stable, HDPE pipes removed

Buffer Zone

- 2 hectares of SEB plantings allocated, otherwise remains residential & farmland
- Exploration drill holes to be rehabilitated, retain sheds, houses, power lines

Central Domain

- Land use will be industrial and Extractive Mineral Lease
- Underground mining voids currently 93% filled (91% required), inject water into mine void for AMD management
- Fill decline and vent raise, remove mill & water dams, undertake soil contamination assessment, re-contour box cut & re-vegetate
- Retain concentrate shed, weighbridge, maintenance workshop and electricity supply

Southern Domain

- Land use is to be open grassland/shrub-land with biodiversity value
- Evaporate all remaining TSF water, when enough moisture removed, place fill onto tails and contour to design, re-vegetate

Grazing excluded for 3 reasons;

- Ecosystem Function Analysis required by DMITRE (and EPA)

- Surface water flows must have low turbidity, DMITRE Regulatory requirement – can't look like Paris creek!
- Mount Lofty Ranges has an extinction debt (woodland birds) due to native vegetation clearance – all landholders should do some re-vegetation.

Reference <http://uq.edu.au/spatialecology/mlr-birddata>

Questions

Chair: *We had action item from last minute to address complaints register and show rounding out. This was partially done but still does not show the contact back to the complainant (time and date the complaint was resolved).*

Regarding RJ2 and RJ3, because they are downstream from the TSF is it not important to get information on water levels from those two?

We have the TSF A, B, C and D bores, it would be nice to have the data from the RJ2 and RJ3 however we don't have permission to access the land to reach the monitoring sites.

Chair: *As EPA are not present, are DMITRE happy with the lead deposition rates?*

Yes

Chair: *Has the issue of noise coming from the paste plant been resolved?*

Keeping the paste plant full did help with the noise levels while it was operating. Since operation has stopped we have heard noises from the district that sounded similar to noises generated during mine operations. We have also received noise complaints when mine plant was not in operation. It is possible that we have been receiving noise complaints for noises not originating from the mine site.

KR comment: Tonight has been positive, but I would like to make a comment on the noise issue. The noise issue was hot and strong particularly during the last week of operation. I know Terramin asked neighbours to be patient during the closure but it was pretty full on. Commenting since it has been completely different. I am aware there are other sources of noise within the district but it has dramatically reduced.

Chair: The draft Closure Plan was distributed however the electronic version was sent out without appendices. There will be questions, but a new version is to come out in March next year. Can we have guidance on how to provide comments and the timing for review and comments? Response from DMITRE and Terramin to provide context for upcoming discussion.

Antonia: If you have comments put these in an email and send to Hans CC Terramin and we will consider comments in the upcoming PEPR review.

Chair: *Should we provide comments in the May meeting seeing as the next version will be out in March?*

Joe: If you are reading it and you have questions send these through to us in writing and we will be able to respond and circulate to the committee.

Chair: *This group provides advice to the Minister. Going forward we need a process about how the views of the committee are incorporated into the report.*

The closure plan was set up following the subcommittee comments.

Chair: That was on the information supplied to the subcommittee, those comments have been made and are now reviewable in the current document, and we may have comments on that today, we might not. The sections that are included in the latest version have not been seen before. The disposition and approved activities (i.e. grazing) is completely new and there has been no response from the group on these matters. It is important for this group to have comments on these as there will be perspectives that may not have been included. There needs to be time for this interface to occur and the committee needs to be told when and in what form.

Chair: *When are the consultant reports expected to be ready and provided to the SCCC to read?*

The reports are expected to be provided to DMITRE in early to mid-January 2014.

Chair: *So this group may not have access prior to the February meeting?*

It is possible.

Chair: *How does the SCCC get access to the appendices?*

Appendices will be sent out in CD form. Comments to be sent back electronically

Has the cover for the TSF been resolved?

Chair: From discussion during the site inspection it is awaiting the consultant reports.

Mark Dale: A simple agricultural solution may be a more robust solution to the TSF. I have concerns if we are waiting to comment for too long the recommendations from the consultant report may be set in iron.

Chair: we are currently in a chicken and egg scenario, awaiting the consultant reports. However our comments will be made and heard.

Chair: *Are there any further questions? Is everyone happy with the process going forward?*

Group acceptance

5. POST CLOSURE LANDUSE OPTIONS

Update on Progress

Chair: Currently the post closure land use options are in limbo. Originally we looked at these on the basis that the site would be usable. The options we discussed may not be possible considering the treatment required for the TSF.

Comments:

We can't make any decisions about it if it's likely to be opened up again to process other ore.

Chair: There is a big issue regarding who is responsible for the site. This may be clear for 5 years but not clear in the long term outlook (100 year +) for the site.

Questions

Does this situation assist DMITRE in other applications coming through? Do you ask for more information upfront?

We are now requiring more detailed work and looking for completed mine closure plans 2 years prior to the mine closing.

Does this committee have any input into the extractive mineral lease?

It is a separate issue that does have connections to the TSF rehabilitation.

No further questions

6. TERRAMIN: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Business as usual is how things are being treated. Advertisements are in place, and the newsletter is being put together. We feel there is no need for broader distribution of the newsletter however there have still been activities going on at the site (School visits etc.).

The newsletter is expected to be sent out to members of the company and to the SCCC in pdf format that can be passed out to others that may be interested or ask questions. A copy will also be placed in the visitor centre.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Review of site inspection

The Chair thanked Terramin for site inspection and the meal provided afterwards. Chair commented that it was good to see the changes to the site and the TSF and dust management plans for summer.

General consensus: Thank you for the tour and meal.

Anne: *It was good to catch up with Joe at parliament house, CLASS's 30 year anniversary.*

Terramin are sponsors of CLASS. Terramin do put money into community groups, it would be nice to get feedback from SCCC as to where money should be spent.

Update on review of Terms of Reference

Charles spoke with Bergit Porter from GHD. SCCC members are asked to complete a survey. Attention was drawn to the question regarding representation of groups on the SCCC. This is outside of our terms of reference as we are not here as representatives but as individuals, although we are expected to distribute information broadly to groups outside of sessions. It was suggested that GHD should contact SCCC members to seek in-depth comments about the experience of being involved in this process. Draft terms of reference are expected to be prepared in time to present at the February meeting. Has anyone had a meeting yet?

No one has met, some have completed the survey however the relevance of some of the questions was questioned.

Chair: My opinion is that there are 4 stages to a CCC that should be covered by the Terms of Reference:

- How to put one together – who is included, how they are selected
- Once formed, how to educate the group about the proposed operation so that it can have meaningful discussions and input into initial regulation.
- Once mine is built and operating – group operates as a monitoring organisation and information exchange mechanism for the wider community, particularly interested in any variations to regulations
- How do you wind down – we should not lose the talent and knowledge gained over the experience however we should not have meetings for no reason. Please provide comments on what has worked well / not well. Put in an email because the survey may not cover these.

Has DMITRE provided a brief and considered the questions being put to the group?

These are not the only questions, people will also be interviewed. This is covering a range of groups across the state.

Chair: There are loose ends in our terms of reference, it is time some of these are captured.

Round table discussion - any other issues not raised above.

Adrian: Pleased with lack of water and the site clean-up looks great.

Mark: I think it's premature to discuss the TSF, I will hold off.

Hans: Your comments are very welcome now as well. If you have comments please email me dot points and I will put it in the system. Don't leave it to the last minute.

Chair: I reinforce that point, if you can review what we already have and provide comment it is very valuable, don't leave to the last minute.

Mike: *I congratulate you on what you have achieved to date. I would like to know about your tree planting to offset carbon?*

You can't offset carbon with trees planted less than 5 years ago. We are going to green up the place though. Thank you Mike for your comments.

Malcom: My questions regarding vegetation were answered during the site visit.

Rhonda: *With the water being removed within the mine areas is it possible to create weaknesses within the mine construction area walls?*

There is a lot of erosion in those walls, however the water is not having a pressure impact to destabilise the walls.

Are you testing the water within the mine cavity for acidity levels?

When it is safe we will try to do that. When the water gets to the 120 we will use the bore to test the water weekly.

Chair: I thought you were stopping flooding at the 160m?

We will try and fill it up as far as we can. The 160 drive is still open, if we want to start again we can dewater to there and head out again.

Is water in the empty spaces that have not been filled?

The mine stopes have been filled, the tunnel going down is still open. The water is within the spiral.

Hans: The potentially acid forming material waste rock has also been placed in the mine, water will encapsulate this and prevent acidification.

Does the water drain out?

There is a water table that will fill in the spaces and stabilise.

Is that a concern for other people's water use down flow?

The water is in the deeper salty aquifer that is not being used by others.

Mike: *Has all the mined area been filled?*

All mined area has been filled as well as the decline as part of our requirements.

Joe: We acknowledged all employees that were involved in the mine and would like to also acknowledge the members of the SCCC as a part of this process.

Merri Tohill

Charles acknowledged the change of secretary. He thanked Merri for all her hard work for the SCCC over the years, particularly noting her talent for translating the often complex, technical discussions into comprehensible minutes. This was very much appreciated by him as Chair. All members concurred, adding many complimentary comments.

Action: Charles to draft and send a letter of thanks to Merri.

8. FUTURE MEETINGS AND CLOSE.

Next SCCC Meeting: 20 February 2014 at 7:00pm, Parker Ave. Hall.

Possible spotlight on terms of reference and reports we should have received by that stage.

Future Meetings: May 15, August 21 (by email?) and November 21

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

Chair: Thanks to all attendees and meeting close (8:22 pm).