



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

National Radioactive Waste Management Facility

Barndioota Consultative Committee

Meeting Notes

Tuesday 27th November 2018

Agenda

Time	Item	Lead
14:00-14:05	Welcome to country	Aaron Stuart
14:05-14:15	Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apologies - Overview of the meeting agenda 	Paul Thomas, Independent Convener
14:15-14:50	Project Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on departmental staffing arrangements - Debrief on the Q&A sessions held in August - Next steps and possible timings - Continuation of the Consultative Committees - Contracts 	Sam Chard, DIIS
14:50 – 15:00	Department presence over the summer	Sam Chard, DIIS
15:00-15:30	AECOM Flora & Fauna surveys	James Rusk, AECOM
15:30-16:00	Community Benefit Programme update – project progress to date	Adam Comley & Abbie Arbon, AusIndustry
16:00-16:15	Next meetings	Sam Chard, DIIS

Attendees:

Paul Thomas (Convener)	Greg Flint (Deputy Convener)	Ronald Daniel
Dianne Ashton	Julia Henderson	Janice McInnis
Denise Carpenter	John Hennessy	Steve Taylor
Jon Gill	Aaron Stuart	Philip Fels
Ashley Haywood		

Apologies:

Cecilia Woolford	Susan Andersson	Victor Clark
John Rowe	Rachel Vella	

Other Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Samantha Chard	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team – General Manager
Ian Carter	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team – Assistant Manager
Adam White	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team – Site Selection Team
Zaheer McKenzie	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team – Community Liaison Officer
James Rusk	AECOM
Adam Comley	AusIndustry, SA State Manager
Abbie Arbon	AusIndustry, Regional Manager

Action Items

Item	Status
1. Provide the link to the community information session Q&A's	Complete – Please see Q&A answers here
2. Advertise the dates department staff are in the Hawker office in local papers	In Progress
3. Advertise the submission process in local papers	In Progress
4. Supply link to Site Selection Fact Sheet	Complete - Please find link to the fact sheet here
5. Provide the AECOM presentation to committee members	Complete
6. Provide the CBP list provided by AusIndustry to the committee	Complete – Please find link to the list here
7. Provide the definition of a terminal lake	Complete
8. Questions tabled at the meeting, AECOM to respond	Complete
9. Discussion with the committee on implementation of the Community Development Package and potential disengagement strategy in early 2019	In Progress – EWG Meeting to be held in February 2019

Meeting opened 14:00pm

Welcome to Country

- Zaheer McKenzie gave a Welcome to Country.

Housekeeping

The Convener informed the committee that the meeting will be held in confidence in light of the court proceedings and there will not be observers at this meeting.

Project Update – Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

Mrs Sam Chard from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS) gave an update on the project including:

- staffing arrangements
- a debrief from the community information sessions
- continuation of the committee
- and next steps in the project.

Staffing Arrangements

- Rebecca Mouthaan, Manager, Community Engagement Team, had left the department to take up a role with Geoscience Australia.
- Zaheer McKenzie, Hawker Community Liaison Officer, was taking up his previous position in the SA police.
- Mrs Chard thanked the staff for their contributions.
- The department is in the process of recruiting people for the vacant positions. We have a new manager, Jenni Pilippa, for the Community Engagement team starting in December.
- In terms of filling the Hawker Community Liaison Officer role the department welcomes any suggestions from committee members on the best approach to advertising or looking for a locally engaged staff member.

Community Information Sessions

Mrs Chard provided feedback from the community Q&A sessions held in August. A number of committee members at the Hawker and Quorn events, with approximately 35 and 40 people respectively attended the sessions. Around 100 people attended the Kimba event.

Key issues raised in each community were:

Hawker & Quorn -

- Site Suitability
- Cultural Heritage
- General Selection Process

Kimba -

- Agricultural impacts and benefits
- Siting of the facility
- Regulation

All Q&A's captured from the sessions and the additional questions are now available on the department's website.

Discussion

- A member commented that 75% of the session was taken up by presentations and 25% allocated to questions. There were a number of comments made in the community on not having an appropriate amount of time for questions.
- A member asked whether the department could provide answers to all the questions asked during the webinar including responses for the people who wrote in with additional questions?
 - Mrs Chard advised that all the questions that came in have been answered and all answers are available on the website including the additional questions.
 - Another member raised that there was an issue with webinar questions not being displayed.
 - A member responded that they were only able to display a certain amount of questions.
 - The Convener noted there was also a time restriction with the webinar and there was not enough time to answer all the questions. The panel members were selecting the questions on the day and may not have been able to answer the more complex questions due to the time limit.
 - Mrs Chard advised that if there are unanswered questions from the webinar to send them to the team for uploading onto the website.

Action: Provide the link to the community information session Q&A's to the BCC.

Next steps and possible timings

Mrs Chard mentioned the department is limited in what we can say about the ongoing court case. She provided an overview of the court case progress to date. She noted that ballot process has been halted in both communities until the outcome of the court case. While the ballot process is on hold the department has extended the closing date for submissions.

Discussion

- A member asked whether the possibility of a federal election has been considered?
 - Mrs Chard advised that it had been considered. The Australian Electoral Commission had noted that the federal election would not impact on their capacity to manage the ballot, if it was progressed.
- A member queried whether Minister Canavan would be able to make a site decision by the end of the year.
 - Mrs Chard advised the Minister wont pre-empt the outcome of the court case.
- A member asked, will there will still be a ballot?
 - Mrs Chard advised the Minister is committed to measuring community support but that the Minister wont pre-empt the outcome of the court case.
 - The Convener noted that the caretaker period ahead of a feral election may also impact timing.
- A member mentioned that hopefully the Minister is aware that the communities want to vote. Consideration for re-enrolment would need to be taken into account.
- A member asked when the submissions would be available online? and noted he understood people are not getting confirmation their submissions are received.
 - Mrs Chard advised the submissions will only be published where the author states it is to be made public. The submissions will not be published until after the submission process has closed. Submissions received electronically have been acknowledge however, however the department is aware that receipt of some postal submissions have not been acknowledged, and is in the process of rectifying that.
 - The member asked what will define closing the submission period?
 - At this stage the submission process will remain open until the ballots have finished, subject to the outcomes of the court case. Mrs Chard advised the department will announce the closing date, once it is settled post the outcome of the court case.
- A member asked what would be the issue publishing the submissions with author permission?
 - Mrs Chard noted that it takes time for the department to review each submission and ensure they are meeting confidentiality provisions of the privacy act and do not contain defamatory comments. We are not in a position to do that until we finish the ballot process.
- A member raised the submissions contain interesting and informed comments. They are useful tools in the process of communicating and sharing ideas. How has the department advertised the submission process?
 - Mrs Chard advised that the submission process has been advertised online, information given to the local communities and it was advertised through the senate process.
 - The Convener added that the department needs to be careful with any submissions that go onto the website which could be held in contempt. If they go on to the website before the court judgement then that could be a problem.

Action: Advertise the submission process in local papers.

Continuing the committee

Mrs Chard advised the committee the current contracts expire on 31st December 2018. We are looking to extend those again for another 12 months.

Discussion

- The Convener mentioned that one of the members had left the community, and we need to make contact with that member to discuss that position.
 - Mrs Chard advised the department will contact the member and initiate the process to replace them if necessary.
- A member asked how the process would work if a replacement member is needed? Would it go back to people who were interested before or would it go out to public?
 - Mrs Chard advised that the department would review the terms of reference and advise accordingly, if new membership was necessary.
- A member raised that in the guidelines it states that members must regularly attend meetings. We have had a member who has missed a number of meetings recently, should we look into replacing that person?
 - The Convener noted that the original contract stated the Independent Convener may request the replacement of a member who fails to attend 3 meetings in a row.
 - Mrs Chard advised that we will liaise with the member to see if they wish to continue on the committee.
- A member noted that last time the department issued new contracts rather than a variation.
- A member queried whether the extension would not impact the format or structure of the meeting or the guidelines?
 - Mrs Chard said that was correct. Essentially the variation or new contracts would involve a 12 month extension.

Presence of the department over the summer

Mrs Chard spoke to the department's community presence over the summer holiday period. We will be closing the Hawker office from Mid-December until the end of January 2019.

Discussion

- A member asked whether there will be any announcements about the site selection before the 28th of January?
 - Mrs Chard advised there will not be any announcement about site selection or the ballot, until after the court case outcome, which would be some time after the hearing on the 30th of January.
- The Convener confirmed that there were no issues with the office being closed for this period.

- A member raised that a number of people in the community are unaware when the department is in the office. The department needs to be consistent with the hours they are available in the office. The department should also look at coming to Quorn.
- A member asked whether the department had visitation stats of how many people come by the office?
 - The department advised that we do not have dedicated statistics but the number of visitors fluctuates depending on what project activities are occurring at the time.
- The department offered to send an email to the committee when they will be in the office so that committee members can advise members of the community. This was agreed by the committee.
- A member added that it should also be advertised in the Flinders Ranges Council newsletter.
 - The department agreed that they would look into this depending on cost.
- A member said that the community needs continuity and the same people from the department should come out each time.
 - The department advised that they will try to ensure that the staff are as consistent as possible but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to send the same people every time.

Action: Advertise the dates department staff are in the office.

AECOM Flora & Fauna Update

James Rusk from AECOM spoke about the recent flora and fauna surveys conducted at the site.

The initial flora and fauna surveys happened in April 2018. Stage 2 of the survey was conducted in September 2018.

The presentation covered:

- A list of all the plants found
- A summary of all species found
- A map of where the survey work was done
- Summary of the fauna survey work

Discussion

- A member raised they had some questions from community members on the site characterisation reports.
 - It was advised to table those questions and come back to the committee.
- A member asked whether the full results were available online? Is this presentation the complete survey?
 - Mr Rusk advised that this is not the full report. We have a lot more detail on the surveys.
 - The member asked whether the full report comes out as a document?

- Mr Rusk advised that there will be a full document. At the moment we have not formally written a report. The plan is to write up a formal document for the selected site. Based on the additional work there isn't much change from the survey conducted in April.
- Mrs Chard added that the next step following site selection will be the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act application. The EPBC application gets made public and this data will be fed into that. We'll need to do some further site work to inform the EPBC once a site is selected.
- A member asked whether that would be too late?
 - Mrs Chard noted that there hasn't been anything identified from the AECOM surveys that can't be managed, although the department is re-looking at whether the size of the parcel of land is sufficient, to ensure we have sufficient room to move as needed.
- The Convener added that this study was to identify anything that would prevent the site going further.
 - Mrs Chard mentioned that the committee has seen the generic design. The concept design has been square so far but it may not necessarily look like that. The next stage is to take the generic design and fit it to the selected sites. That work will occur once a site is selected.
- A member asked has AECOM finished with their work?
 - Mr Rusk advised that once a site is selected we will look at developing a plan on what other work needs to be done.
 - The member asked is AECOM's contract ongoing?
 - Mrs Chard responded that the department contracts AECOM for defined tasks and will likely contract for further work, but that future procurements needed to be undertaken in accordance with government procurement rules.
- The Convener asked if there was an event that happens on the site, for example heavy rain, could we go back and look at it in case something changes?
 - Mrs Chard advised that we can look at that if an event occurs but we want to avoid doubling up on any work that will be done as part of The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC). There would be opportunity to do that if necessary.
- Mr Rusk spoke to the fact that slight rain had occurred before they returned to site.
- A member asked what was considered as rainfall? They couldn't remember much rain activity this year.
 - Mr Rusk responded that there was about 5mm-10mm of rain which occurred before they returned to the site. It has been a year with very little rainfall, we had to take into consideration what plants might emerge. The survey took this into account, but it does not mean that something could emerge after some significant rain.
 - Another member queried if you are not looking for it then you will not document it? In my own experience I have heard of plants that haven't been seen for 30 years until we got a period of consistent rain.
 - Mr Rusk advised that we cannot say anything categorically, we have to rely on the surveys that have been done in the past and what was documented. There are Commonwealth data sets about rare and endangered species that

gives you an indication of what might be present. For this particular site there is a possibility that something could emerge after heavy rainfall but we cannot say that unless it happens.

- A member mentioned that in the last AECOM presentation, Lake Torrens was described as a terminal lake. What determines a terminal lake?
 - Mr Rusk advised that he would need to check that definition. We will address that question but it will not have a bearing on our work.
- A member asked what AECOM defined as the catchment area? Does it take into account the larger footprint around Lake Torrens?
 - Mr Rusk advised that they were mainly concerned with the catchments around Wallerberdina. We did not look at the whole area of Lake Torrens. We focused on breakout areas from the creek and other catchments that run through that landscape.
 - A member added that when Hookina Creek floods it hits the sand dunes to the west and flows back. That was not included in AECOM's maps.
 - Mr Rusk replied that the flood predictions covered the entirety of Wallerberdina. We have not stepped out further, there may be flooding that occurs outside that area.

Action: Check the definition of a terminal lake.

Terminal Lake: A limited drainage basin that normally retains water and allows no outflow to other external bodies of water, such as rivers or oceans, but converges instead into lakes or swamps, that equilibrate through evaporation.

Community Benefit Programme Update

Adam Comley and Abbie Arbon from AusIndustry gave an update on the Round 2 Community Benefit Programme (CBP) projects.

AusIndustry continues to support the program. We are currently going through the process to ensure that the projects are reaching the milestones to ensure that they spend all their funds.

We do not have any completed projects at this stage but we should start to see some reach completion from this point forward.

Discussion

- A member asked whether all of the \$2 million was spent?
 - Mr Comley advised that around \$1.98 million was spent. We have evidence on spending and allocation.
- A member raised that they thought there was a condition that particular projects being funded could not be sold.
 - Mr Comley advised that AusIndustry cannot enforce such restrictions on a business. You can stipulate that a particular piece of equipment cannot be sold but you cannot say that for a business for this particular program.

- A member asked if there is another CBP funding round, is it possible to include an agreement with a private business that they will not sell the business for a specific time?
 - Mr Comley responded that from an AusIndustry perspective the business exists with the facility and the community gets the benefit. We cannot guarantee what happens if a business has poor management for example.
- A member asked why there are different dates on the projects.
 - Mr Comley stated each project is based on individual timeframes.
- A member asked by the end of August 2019 you should have all the paperwork for round 1 and 2?
 - Mr Comley advised that is correct.
- A member gave an update on the Telstra project. The project is on track for completion in the first half of next year.
- A member asked when will AusIndustry do their final acquittals? Where will the extra money go?
 - Mr Comley said other projects have been merit listed and the money will be distributed.
- A member raised that by the time the data comes back to AusIndustry and the committee has their next meeting you might be able to tell us if there is more money?
 - Mr Comley said if there are changes, we will inform the committee.

Action: Provide the CBP project list.

Community Skills and Development Programme (CSDP)

Mrs Chard discussed the Community Skills and Development Programme for the host community.

Mrs Chard informed the committee, once a site is selected funding will be allocated to the community. We are conscious of the recent delay and we are looking to initiate discussion early next year around the CSDP, particularly with the Wallerberdina Economic Working Group (WEWG). This will help inform us on how best to use the funds to strengthen the community skills base. A heritage plan will also be developed to help inform the allocation of funds from the Indigenous Advancement Strategy.

Discussion

- A member raised that they think they are making things more divisive by targeting a single demographic.
 - Mrs Chard advised that funding for indigenous heritage would be specifically supported by the funding from the the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, but that the new grants program could also support indigenous activities. At this stage, the objectives are very broad and high level at the moment. The next stage of the process will involve developing detailed

guidelines, similar to the CBP, which we will want to do in consultation with the community.

- The Convener asked whether the WEWG had been meeting?
 - Mrs Chard advised they have not met recently.
- A member asked for clarification that the \$8 million is for enhancement of employment opportunities?
 - Mrs Chard advised that that is correct. It is about making sure that there are people in the community can access the economic opportunities for individuals to access jobs and for business to take advantage of commercial opportunities.
 - The member asked for clarification that the funds will be available once a site is selected.
 - Mrs Chard confirmed that once a site is selected the \$8 million grants program will be available at \$2 million per year for four years. The \$20 million community fund will be available when construction is completed.
- A member asked how the \$20 million would be managed. Would it be designated through grants or would it be run through the community?
 - Mrs Chard said that it would not be a grants program.
 - The Convener added that it could be something like a future fund that is managed on behalf of the community.
- A member asked if the \$3 million is for purchasing the land?
 - Mrs Chard responded that is not correct. The purchase of the site is allocated to a separate fund.
- A member noted that the the \$3 million for indigenous support is not new money. It is misleading that this money is new money.
 - Mrs Chard noted that the Minister's media statement was very clear that the \$3 million for specific indigenous support was from the existing Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS).
- A member raised that there is an obligation that the \$3 million sits with the indigenous people.
 - Mrs Chard clarified that it will only be available for the community that hosts the facility. We are keen to start this conversation in early 2019 before we have a decision.
- A member asked whether any of the money will be available outside the council area?
 - Mrs Chard advised the grant guidelines will address this. We will consult with all stakeholders before we confirm.

Other Matters

Discussion

- A member asked whether there was an update on the Woomera waste?
 - Mrs Chard advised that CSIRO are assessing the drums. ANSTO are working with them to do the assessment.
 - The department added the CSIRO presentation that was given to the WEWG and KCC is available on our website.

- A member raised that the meeting notes from the previous meeting in July were not discussed today.
 - The Convener advised that those meeting notes will be reviewed by members out of session. Feedback from those notes is to be sent to the department by the end of the week so that they can be published as soon as possible.
- A member asked what was happening with the socio-economic study that the University of Queensland (UQ) were conducting?
 - Mrs Chard advised that UQ has delivered a draft report and we have provided feedback for them to review. The UQ work was intended to be different from the Cadence Economics work. The UQ report is designed to be a benchmark study and will give us some insight of things we want to put in place. We were working towards having the report settled by February.
- A member added that the community invested a great deal into having discussions with UQ, they were led to believe there would be advantages in gathering that data. Feedback would be useful.
 - Mrs Chard advised that the data will be used.
 - The member meant that they were talking about feedback for individuals. They asked for clarification that the department wants the report published by February?
 - Mrs Chard advised the department cannot commit to a hard timeframe at this stage but was working towards February.

Meeting Closed 17:00