

**Barndioota Consultative Committee**

**Meeting Notes**

Tuesday 19th March 2019

## Agenda

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Location: Hawker Sports Centre, Hawker SA

| **Time** | **Item** | **Lead** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | | |
| 13:00-13:30 | BCC contract review & signing  Lunch on arrival | |
| 13:30-13:35 | Welcome to country | Aaron Stuart |
| 13:35-13:45 | Housekeeping   * Apologies * Overview of the meeting agenda * Meeting Notes Process | Paul Thomas, Independent Convener |
| 13:45-14:15 | Project Update   * Appointment of the Hawker Community Liason Officer * Adnyamathanha Engagement Update * Site selection * Committee tenures & the Regional Consultative Committee * Questions from the committee | Jenni Philippa, DIIS |
| 14:15-14:45 | Site security arrangements | Jenni Philippa, DIIS &  James Hardiman & Shane Harrison, ANSTO (Via mobile) |
| 14:45-15:00 | Wallerberdina Economic Working Group, Community Skills and Development Program Workshop | Jenni Philippa & Ronald “Mopsy” Daniel |
| 15:00-15:30 | Facility needs - what we have learned | Jenni Philippa |
| 15:30-16:00 | UQ Socio-Economic Study - Findings | Peta Ashworth, UQ |
| 16:00-16:30 | Question time | Jenni Philippa, 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 | Cecilia Woolford | Susan Andersson |
| John Rowe | Victor Clark |  |

## Apologies:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Nil |  |  |

## Other Attendees:

| **Name** | **Organisation** |
| --- | --- |
| Jenni Philippa | DIIS: NRWMF Community Engagement Team –Manager |
| Ian Carter | DIIS: NRWMF Community Engagement Team – Assistant Manager |
| Megan Gietzel | DIIS: NRWMF Community Engagement Team – Community Engagement Team |
| Margaret-Rose McKenzie | DIIS: NRWMF Community Engagement Team – Hawker Community Liaison Officer |
| James Hardiman | ANSTO |
| Shane Harrison | ANSTO |
| Professor Peta Ashworth | University of Queensland |

## Action Items

| **Item** | **Status** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. The committee raised with the department to consider a $2 million CBP round post a court decision. | Complete  There are no plans for additional CBP rounds at this stage. However, any request by the communities for further funding will be considered after the outcome of the current court process is known, and the extent of any delay can be assessed. |
| 1. Send to the committee an updated web link to the NRWMF site. | Complete  [Link to new web site](https://www.industry.gov.au/strategies-for-the-future/managing-radioactive-waste)  [Link to old web site](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/) |
| 1. Query on the seismic response data, results being similar for all three sites. | Complete  [link to the Wallerberdina Station site study](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/NRWMF_Factsheet_WallerberdinaSite_Factsheet.pdf)  [link to the Napandee site study site study](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/NRWMF_Factsheet_NapandeeSite_Factsheet.pdf)  [link to the Lyndhurst site study site study](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/NRWMF_Factsheet_LyndhurstSite_Factsheet.pdf) |
| 1. Send on the Senate Estimates recommendations from the enquiry. | Complete  [Link to reccomendations](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/files/NRWMF%20Site%20Selection%20-%20Senate%20Inquiry%20-%20Response%20-%20Tabling%20version%20PDF.pdf) |
| 1. Send to the committee the University of Queensland Presentation. | Complete  [Link to report](https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/social-baseline-report-hawkerquorn)  Presentation attached |
| 1. Send to the committee information on the waste categories. P3 & P10 | Complete [link to report on waste categories](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/Australian%20Radioactive%20Waste%20Management%20Framework.pdf) |
| 1. Provide a link to the committee on Minister Canavan’s Senate Estimate words on Broad Community Support. | Complete [link to hansard](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard)  Hansard Attached |
| 1. Supply Cadence Economic Report to BCC & WEWG. | Complete - [link to report](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/NRWMF%20-%20Hawker%20EIS.PDF) |
| 1. A committee member asked to see the WEWG action item for the meeting 3 May 2018, item supplying a ‘cheat sheet’ on what qualifications are required to work at the construction and operating phase of a facility. | Complete  Please see response in Question Time and [links to Job fact Sheets](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/files/NRWMF%20Jobs%20Fact%20Sheet.PDF) [and link to Mitch Timpano presentation to the BCC meeting notes](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/files/BCC%20Notes%20-%2026%20June.pdf)  [link to Mitch Timpano presentation](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/files/Low%20Level%20Solid%20Waste%20Processing.pdf) |
| 1. Publish the WEWG CSDP workshop notes | In progress |
| 1. Link to Dr Victor Gostin’s presentation 24 July 2018 | Complete [link to presentation](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/files/BARNDIOOTA%2024July.pptx) |
| 1. What is the lease type of Wallerberdina Station | Complete |
| 1. A member sought clarification on the revenue generated by the construction and operational phases of the project and the reduced benefit on the local economy, as assessed in the Cadence Economic Report | Complete |

## Minutes

*Committee members arrived 13:00pm to sign contracts*

*Meeting opened 14:00pm*

Welcome to Country

* Aaron Stuart gave a Welcome to Country.

Housekeeping

The convener noted the committee last met in Quorn 27 November 2018 and thanked them for their time in meeting today. The convener noted the court case was still ongoing. The convener recommended to the department and committee meet to discuss next steps post a court decision.

Project Update – Department of Industry, Innovation and Science

Ms Philippa from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS) gave an update on the project including:

* appointment of the Hawker Community Liason Officer
* Adnyamathanha engagement update
* site selection
* committee tenures & the Regional Consultative Committee.

Staffing Arrangements

Ms Philippa informed the committee post the November 2018 meeting there had been a number of staffing changes. Of particular note the department had appointed a new Hawker Community Liaison Officer, Ms Margaret-Rose McKenzie.

Adnyamathanha Information Session

Ms Philippa provided an overview the Adnyamathanha Information Session held in Port Augusta 27 February 2019, with approximately 25 to 30 people attending the session.

Ms Philippa informed the committee the Adnyamathanha elders invited the department to hold an information session for members of the Adnyamathanha community in Port Augusta.

Topics covered on the day were:

* + overview of the project
  + how waste will be stored at the facility
  + how the waste will be managed
  + site assessment
  + safety and waste acceptance criteria
  + facility design
  + community benefits
  + regulatory frameworks
  + question time to address community concerns.

**Discussion**

The committee sought clarification on how the event was advertised and if other Indigienous groups would like to engage with the department.

**Response**

Ms Philippa informed the committee the invitation was by request of Adnyamathanha elders and open to anyone to attend. The department advertised the event in The Transcontinental Port Augusta newspaper, the NRWMF Facebook page and website. Ms Philippa also informed the committee the department is open to engaging with other groups and would consider facilitating similar sessions in future.

Site Selection

Ms Philippa informed the committee the department cannot discuss the court case but are mindful of the need to reach a decision on the current proposed site nominations as soon as possible.

Ms Philippa also informed the committee on what will happen after a site is selected and steps required by legislation before a site for the facility is declared and acquired by the Commonwealth:

* first the Minister will announce an ‘intention to declare a site”.
* then at least 60 days for persons who have a legal right or interest in the site, to comment on the announcement.
* after considering these comments, the Minister is able to declare a site.
* when a site is declared it is acquired.

Committee Tenures and the Regional Consultative Committee

Ms Philippa informed the committee the Barndioota Consultative Committee and the Kimba Consultative Committee have been re-appointed until 31 December 2019. The Wallerberdina Economic Working Group have also been re-appointed until 31 December 2019. The Kimba Economic Working Group tenures cease end of April 2019 and will also be extended to 31 December 2019.

Post the vote and once a site is selected a Regional Consultative Committee will be established once the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia declares the selection of a site in line with *Section 22 of the National Radioactive Waste Management Act 2012.*

For further information please find the [link to the National Radioactive Waste Management Act 2012](https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2012A00029).

Site Security Arrangements

Ms Philippa informed the committee due to recent media the department felt it was timely to provide an update on site security arrangements and conditioning of waste material. The topic had been presented and discussed at previous meetings by ANSTO in May and June 2018 with both committees.

To aid in the presentation and discussion James Hardiman, leader of waste operations and Shane Harrison, engineer on site design from ANSTO provided an overview on how waste is stored, disposed and conditioned.

ANSTO personnel informed the committee that all material is conditioned to the point there are no freely available materials, no liquids, no gas and no free powders. All Low Level Waste (LLW) will be placed in compacted drums (puck-shaped objects) will then be loaded into a larger drum, and a high performance cement mix will then be poured around them to fill the void spaces in the drum. Therefore, there are three barriers: the original compacted drum, the cement grout and a new outer drum.

All Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) is contained in vitrified material, synroc and a TN-81 canister. Before it can be transported for storage, most of it will require conditioning into a solid matrix and packaging into secure rated containers.

ANSTO informed the committee the proposed site design is known as a multiple layer, defence in depth approach to safety and therefore containment of the material kept on site. What this means is that a hierarchy of systems, controls and barriers perform safety functions independently of each other, so that the even if one of the systems, controls or barriers fail, a number of others will function independently to ensure protection of the health and safety of people and of the environment.

ANSTO informed the committee how the waste is in a conditioned state that renders the inability to gain access to the material.

The department informed the committee, security measures around any radioactive waste management facility will be designed to mitigate a range of threats based on advice from relevant government security agencies, and the facility will be supervised by multiple regulators including the ARPANSA and ASNO.

The department noted, while the terrorist threat in Australia persists, terrorists globally have shown no propensity for an attack on a facility of this nature.

**Discussion**

The committee sought clarification on the status of the Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC), how much waste will be delivered to the facility and how material will be delivered to the facility. The committee also wanted to know, how will security be operated at the site and what type of security personnel will be employed.

**Response**

ANSTO informed the committee the WAC is being developed in consultation with a range of national and international technical experts and key waste holders and stakeholders (such as ANSTO, CSIRO, the Department of Defence and ASNO). They are based on standards set down by the IAEA, operating experience from the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Belgium, but also set to meet Australia’s needs. Until a final site is selected the design and detail will be adjusted depending on the site selected.

ANSTO informed the committee any material to be delivered to the facility must meet the WAC.

The department addressed the volume of material to come to the facility as approximately 5,000 cubic meters for LLW (please note the Australian Radioactive Waste Management Framework link provided below states at 10 January 2018 4,975 cubic meters of LLW).

The department informed the committee there are 14 security and safe guard positions. The facility will adopt security personnel as instructed by the regulator ARPANSA.

**Action:** link to the [safety and security](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/NRWMF_Factsheet_Safety%26Security_ONLINE.PDF), and [Jobs fact sheets](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/files/NRWMF%20Jobs%20Fact%20Sheet.PDF).

**Action:** [link to the Australian Radioactive Waste Management Framework](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/Australian%20Radioactive%20Waste%20Management%20Framework.pdf).

Wallerberdina Economic Working Group (WEWG), Community Skills and Development (CSDP) Program Workshop

Ms Philippa and Mr Ronald Daniel provided an update to the committee on the CSDP workshop with the WEWG 20 February 2019.

The CSDP will provide $8 million in grants funding over four years to the host community of the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF) as part of the $31 million Community Development Package (CDP) for the community that will host the proposed NRWMF.

The CSDP aims to ensure that the community is able to maximise the economic benefits of the construction and long term operation of the facility, through the provision of grants for projects that will support economic resilience, capacity and skills. To ensure that the CSDP is fit-for-purpose, the department held workshops with the WEWG to discuss community views of the CSDP and to inform the development of guidelines for the program.

The department also discussed the $3 million in grant funding from the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS), which was to be delivered through the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Ms Philippa informed the committee that the IAS funding would likely fund the outcomes/recommendations of an Aboriginal Economic and Heritage Participation Plan. Funding of the actual plan development was being determined by the department.

The WEWG provided feedback on eligible applicants, eligible projects and funding streams.

**Action:** The WEWG workshop notes will be published on the department’s website.

Facility needs - what we have learned

The department advised that in phase 1, the department provided an initial concept design used to assist land owners for them to consider.

AECOM presentations and our site characterisation fact sheets show each of the sites are a bit different. Some aspects of the sites are similar but have different service requirements such as power and water access and telecommunication requirements.

The design also needs to respond to recommendations from the senate enquiry and requirements by the regulator.

As the department develops its understanding of the sites, we will provide updates back to the community with our concepts once they are developed.

Ms Philippa informed the committee they are conducting a tender process to undertake a peer review of the facility design work in relation to conceptual, design development and detailed design of the NRWMF. The department is also working with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to undertake an Integrated Review Service for Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management, Decommissioning and Remediation (ARTEMIS) review, as well as review of and contribution to the Common National Inventory of Radioactive Waste (CNIRW), safety documentation and WAC.

**Discussion**

The committee sought clarification on the site characterisation findings for each site in particular the seismic survey findings and type of lease at Wallerberdina Station.

**Response**

The department took the questions on notice, please find below the response and links to the site study fact sheets.

The department informed the committee they would provide the site study fact sheets to answer the question (please find below links to the site study for all three sites).

The site studies cover a range of topics including site geology and seismic survey findings.

The lease is comprised part pastoral and perpetual lease.

**Action:** [link to the Wallerberdina Station site study](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/NRWMF_Factsheet_WallerberdinaSite_Factsheet.pdf)

**Action:** [link to the Napandee site study site study](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/NRWMF_Factsheet_NapandeeSite_Factsheet.pdf)

**Action:** [link to the Lyndhurst site study site study](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/NRWMF_Factsheet_LyndhurstSite_Factsheet.pdf)

**Action:** [link to the peer review tender work on Austender](https://www.tenders.gov.au/?event=public.atm.showClosed&ATMUUID=393B2E3F-9A37-F610-CAB23D98AE189622)

**Action:** [link to Dr Victor Gostin's presentation](https://prod-radioactivewaste.industry.slicedtech.com.au/sites/prod.radioactivewaste/files/files/BARNDIOOTA%2024July.pptx)

**Action:** What type of lease exists at Wallerberdina Station? (please see above for response)

Professor Peta Ashworth

University of Queensland (UQ) Socio-Economic Study - Findings

Professor Peta Ashworth presented findings on the UQ socio-economic baseline report work on the townships of Hawker and Quorn.

The purpose of the research was to:

* provide social and economic information about the town to identify current trends;
* identify existing local community strengths and values and how these can be protected or enhanced;
* identify preferred and socially acceptable strategies to harness expected opportunities or to avoid and mitigate negative impacts;
* establish a social and economic monitoring framework (identify locally meaningful indicators) to enable the tracking of changes over time.

Professor Ashworth informed the committee of the methodology used to compile the findings of the study.

A team of researchers conducted a desktop review to identify data around key socio-economic indicators thought to be significant to small regional communities and conducted 13 interviews with individuals, pairs or small groups of community members. Another 3 interviews by telephone and received a number of email responses. The research built a community baseline profile for Hawker & Quorn.

The study identified a number of indicators for a period of time using sources such as the ABS and Census data, the Australian Tax Office and interviews with individuals in Hawker and Quorn.

To understand and develop a baseline for the community the UQ team identified:

* employment statistics
* total business income
* school pupil and staffing numbers by year
* housing prices, weekly rent and vacancy rates
* police reported offences
* community values
* community concerns
* opportunities identified through interviews
* what can be learnt from communities who have been involved in similar experiences e.g. post construction.

**Discussion**

The committee sought clarification on why UQ provided short notice to visit the communities, how did the people know of the interviews and when will the report be published.

**Response**

UQ recognised the short notice provided to the communities and noted this in the report.

The department informed the committee the event was advertised on the NRWMF Facebook page and via email to the committees.

The department informed the committee the report will be published on the department’s website as soon as possible.

**Action:** provide link to the UQ presentation

Question Time

Ms Philippa informed the committee on how the care taker provisions work. The independent convener reminded the committee they are non-decision body and can continue during this process.

Q. A member asked, will a change in government stop the project?

A. The department conducts its work on the instruction by government of the day.

Q. A member asked if there is an internal or external review of the BCC or being considered?

A. The department confirmed there is no review.

Q. Will the department clarify, will we have a ballot or survey?

A. The department confirmed that a ballot or survey will be undertaken once we have an outcome from the court case.

Q. A member asked for the Minister to define broad community support for a ballot and what that number would be and would the Minster accept less than 60%?

A. The department to provide the Minister’s words on this matter (please note this is provided as part of the action items).

Q. A member sought clarification on the revenue generated by the construction and operational phases of the project and the projected reduction in benefit to the local economy outlined in the Cadence Economic Report?

A. The department asked the member to send the question to the secretariat and to identify what part of the report they were referring to.

*Response to Cadence Economic Report question supplied by Cadence Economics*

The decrease refered to is not a decrease in economic benefit to the community if the facility is progressed. Under all local construction content assumptions real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and real Gross Regional Income (GRI) all increase in Net Present Value (NPV) terms as a result of the proposed development when compared to the baseline case of no development.

Local firms involved in construction will receive direct financial benefit from their involvement during the construction phase. However, this does come at a cost of displacing activity in other sectors of the economy, which is highlighted in the Cadence Economics report results for the year 2030.

On page 28 the Cadence Economics report discusses a “slight negative” impact of doubling the local content. The negative impact is a decrease in the modelled economic benefits of the facility in 2030 when the local content assumptions are tested. For example, in 2030, under the core local content assumptions real Gross Regional Product (GRP) in the region will be higher by $8.3 million compared to the baseline case of no facility. When the local content is doubled GRP is higher by $8.1 million. A reduction of $0.2 million over the core scenario. The reduction is driven by a number of factors, the report states:

*This projected reduction in economic activity in 2030 is because over the construction period, construction resources in the region are reallocated to the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility. This `displaces other investments that would have occurred in the region, a phenomenon known as ‘crowding out’*.

Economic studies can often be difficult to interpret, and we are always happy to take questions on notice during the meetings, where we don’t have the relevant specialist expertise on hand to answer. We will explore the potential to have Cadence Economics present to the BCC at a future meeting should the members think this may assist. So any questions members have can be answered by the appropriate experts.

Q. A member asked the department to provide definitions on the waste categories.

A. The department took this request on notice and will provide the definition (please note this is provided as part of the action items).

Q. A member queried an action item for the WEWG meeting 3 May 2018 and what information was provided on the “cheat sheet” of qualifications needed during the construction and operational phase of the project?

A. The department took this request on notice and will provide the information (please note this is provided as part of the action items).

Response to committee on the WEWG 3 May 2018 action item 9.

The WEWG wanted to gain a better understanding of the qualifications required by personnel to operate during the construction and operational phases of the project.

The department with the help of the WEWG conducted an event to provide the information. The WEWG hosted a Construction workshop 18 July 2018 in Quorn to provide information to the community on how to be work ready. The department sourced specialists in the field of construction to provide this information. AECOM provided an overview of the type roles required and WorkSafe SA presented on how to obtain tickets and how they can help small business to address what tickets are required to work on construction sites, now and in the future.

Further to this, the department asked ANSTO to provide a worker from the Lucas Heights waste facility to discuss their role and type of qualifications they had received while working for ANSTO. Mitch Timpano provided his experience and training provided by ANSTO.

Finally the department captured Mitch Timpano qualifications in the jobs fact sheet.

Q. A member asked when will the next $2 million of the Community Benefit Package (CBP) be delivered?

A. The department informed the committee the CBP is fully expended, future funding may be considered post the outcome of the court decision.

**Action Item:** provide response to Cadence report.

*Meeting Closed 17:30*