



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

**National Radioactive Waste
Management Program**

Kimba Consultative Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday 15 August 2019

KIMBA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (KCC)

Date: Thursday 15 August 2019

Time: 9.00 – 15.00

Venue: 49 High Street, Kimba SA

Time	Item	Lead
9.00 – 9.30	Tea and Coffee available	
9.30 – 9.35	1. Acknowledgement of Country	Allan Suter, Independent Convener
9.35 – 9.55	2. Housekeeping	Allan Suter, Independent Convener
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Apologies b) Minutes from previous meeting c) Actions from previous meeting 	
	d) Departmental Updates	Sam Chard, DIIS
9.55 – 10.15	3. Court Case Update	Sam Chard, DIIS
10.15 – 11.00	4. Site Design Update	Sam Chard, DIIS
		Shane Harrison, ANSTO James Rusk, AECOM
11.00– 11.15	Morning Tea Break	
11.15 – 12.00	5. Site Security Measures - Post Acquisition	Sam Chard, DIIS Lachlan Pearce, Forcefield Services
12.00 – 12.45	6. Transition Strategy	Jane Bailey, DIIS
12.45 – 13.15	Lunch Break	
13.15 – 14.00	7. Questions from the Committee	Sam Chard, DIIS
14.00 – 14.30	8. Summary of the day	Allan Suter, Independent Convener
14.30 – 15.00	Meeting Close / Afternoon Tea	

Member Attendees

Allan Suter (Convener)	Symon Allen	Amy Wright
Dean Johnson (Deputy Convener)	Randall Cliff	Peta Willmott
Jeff Baldock	Meagan Lienert	Peter Woolford
Heather Baldock	Jeff Koch	Sally Inglis
Kellie Hunt		

Apologies

Toni Scott	Pat Beinke	Kerri Rayson
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Other Attendees

Name	Organisation
Sam Chard	NRWMF Taskforce – General Manager, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
Jenni Philippa	NRWMF Taskforce – Manager, Community Engagement Team, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
Megan Gietzel	NRWMF Taskforce – Assistant Manager, Community Engagement Team, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
Yvette Perera-Hardy	NRWMF Taskforce – Secretariat Officer, Community Engagement Team, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
Shane Holland	NRWMF Taskforce – Manager, Indigenous Engagement Team, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
Jane Bailey	NRWMF Taskforce – Adviser, Transition Strategy, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
Alex Scott	Adviser, Office of Senator Matthew Canavan
James Rusk	AECOM
Lachlan Pearce	Forcefield Services
Shane Harrison	ANSTO

Action Register

Action Item Ref #	Action Item	Status Comments
KCC20190815/A01	The department to convey to Ian Carter, the KCC's appreciation for his community engagement efforts.	In progress
KCC20190815/A02	The department to distribute (out-of-session) to all KCC members agreed amendments to the KCC Observer Protocol, which will sanction the attendance of up to 10 observers, with no restrictions on note-taking and recording the meeting.	In progress
KCC20190815/A03	The Secretariat to send list of nominated observers to all KCC members ahead of committee meetings.	In progress
KCC20190815/A04	The department to publish on its website and to circulate to all KCC members the scope and parameters of the Business Sentiment Survey which will be undertaken by an independent market research company.	In progress
KCC20190815/A05	The department will liaise with AECOM to obtain and provide to committee members the results of soil testing, such as salinity, Ph and nutrient levels, to guide optimal agricultural uses for the Research and Development (R&D) Zone.	In progress
KCC20190815/A06	Shane Harrison committed to providing water flow rates for the facility, noting that the biggest water usage is to facilitate fire safety.	Completed
KCC20190815/A07	The department to email KCC members to request suggestions for possible legacy initiatives that may benefit the non-host community.	In progress
KCC20190815/A08	The department to provide an update on <i>legacy initiatives for the non-host community</i> at the next meeting.	In progress
KCC20190815/A09	The department to publish information regarding the Community Skills and Development Program (CSDP) on its website.	In progress
KCC20190815/A10	The department to publish on its website, information regarding the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC), such as its envisaged role and responsibilities, its establishment methodology, the process for selecting RCC members, and governance procedures, once determined.	In progress
KCC20190815/A11	The department to invite CSIRO to discuss results of their recent analysis of the amount and defined level of low level waste at Woomera.	Completed
KCC20190815/A12	The Secretariat to include <i>Updates on CSIRO's Radioactive Waste at Woomera</i> , as an agenda item for next meeting.	Completed

Minutes

Meeting opened at 9.31am

1. Acknowledgement of Country

Allan Suter provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Housekeeping

March 2019 minutes distributed out of session. No comments or corrections raised.

The Convener noted that there was a media contingent present, who had requested access to the meeting and asked if anyone objected to them coming into the room. No-one objected, so the media entered the room and were present during Sam Chard's opening comments, after which they left.

a) Apologies

Apologies –Toni Scott, Pat Beinke, Kerri Rayson and Allan Crowhurst (observer).

b) Minutes from previous meeting

Confirmed minutes as prepared.

c) Actions from previous meeting

Questions on notice and actions all complete.

d) Departmental Updates

Ms Chard opened the meeting with an overview of items that would be addressed in the meeting for the benefit of the media who were present. Ms Chard noted the purpose of the meeting was to update on new developments, and answer any questions including:

- Identifying a location that will dispose of low-level radioactive waste and temporarily store intermediate-level waste.
- Noted that over the past two years the department has undertaken detailed technical assessments, released social and economic studies, continued consultation and the facilitation of visiting experts, as well as receiving submissions.
- Noted that the Minister has consistently said the facility will only be sited at a place that is suitable from a technical perspective, volunteered by a landowner, and near a community that broadly supports it.
- Noted updates on community ballots, council meetings, liaising with indigenous representative groups, facility size and shape and observer protocols.

All of the above was discussed in more detail with the KCC after the media contingent left the room.

The committee acknowledged the attendance of Shane Holland, the Taskforce's newly-appointed Indigenous Engagement Manager who brings a wealth of experience in indigenous engagement, particularly within South Australia to the role.

The Convener asked DIIS to pass on the Committee's appreciation to Ian Carter for all his efforts which have been instrumental to recent work within the nominated communities.

Action_KCC20190815/A01: The department to convey to Ian Carter, the KCC's appreciation for his community engagement efforts.

Ms Chard introduced and welcomed Alex Scott – Minister Canavan's advisor. Mr Scott will be on the ground for the Minister's visit the following week and hopes to also be available in the period leading up to the community ballots. Alex welcomed any questions, issues and concerns to be raised directly with him.

It was noted that Minister Canavan will be visiting Kimba on Thursday 22 August (after visiting Quorn and Hawker on Wednesday 21 August) with apologies for the late notice of the visit. The Minister's schedule will include meetings with council, a closed meeting with the Kimba Consultative Committee (KCC) and Kimba Economic Working Group (KEWG), followed by an open community meeting.

Observer Protocols

Concerns amongst community regarding observer protocol and note taking restrictions at consultative meetings were discussed. Ms Chard noted the Observer Protocols were put in place after consultation between the department and the Kimba and Barndioota consultative committees. It was further noted the intention of not allowing observers taking notes was to maintain anonymity to alleviate personal attribution of viewpoints.

Ms Chard further noted, discussions were held with the Barndioota Consultative Committee (BCC) on 13 August and suggested to change the protocols. BCC agreed to this as an action item. Sam Chard asked the KCC members if they agreed to these adjustments to the Observer protocol. General agreement amongst members was noted, and they agree to note-taking and recording to promote transparency.

A suggestion was made to allow up to 10 observers, noting the size of the meeting room can cater for this.

It was resolved that DIIS will amend the Observer Protocol to allow up to 10 observers and to remove restrictions on note-taking and recording the meeting.

Action_KCC20190815/A02: The department to distribute (out-of-session) to all KCC members agreed amendments to the KCC Observer Protocol, which will sanction the attendance of up to 10 observers, with no restrictions on note-taking and recording the meeting.

KCC20190815/A03: The department to send a list of nominated observers to all KCC members ahead of future committee meetings.

Questions

A member asked why the Community Benefits Package funding of \$2m has not been forthcoming?

- The Convener suggested this would be a valid question to bring up during the Minister's visit the following week.

3. Court Case Update

Ms Chard addressed the committee and outlined that a clear decision had been handed down by the Federal Court in the matter of BDAC v District of Kimba Council, and noted that while an appeal had been lodged, there was no legal impediment to the ballots proceeding.

It was noted that the mechanism to allow people and organisations from outside the local government area to be heard is via the submissions process.

Ms Chard noted the Minister will consider a range of factors when making a decision as to whether to select a volunteered site for the facility, including submissions and ballot results.

Ms Chard restated the department's offer to provide financial support for Indigenous representative groups to conduct polls of their members.

Members were asked if they are aware of any surveys or petitions not yet submitted to the department to please let the department know so these can be considered.

Ms Chard noted the submissions process is expected to remain open until the community ballots close and that timeframes for the ballots will be discussed with council during the Minister's visit next week and advised to the communities as soon as they are known.

A separate survey activity will be undertaken by an independent entity contracted by the department to capture business sentiment. The department will be formally contacting neighbours again to gauge sentiment. Both of these activities will be conducted during the community ballot timeframes and feed into the Community Sentiment Report (CSR) to be provided to the Minister.

<p>Action_KCC20190815/A04: The department to publish on its website and to circulate to all KCC members the scope and parameters of the Business Sentiment Survey which will be undertaken by an independent market research company.</p>
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4. Site Design Update

James Rusk from AECOM and Shane Harrison from ANSTO were introduced to the committee.

Ms Chard advised the original call for site nominations in 2015 stated the department required no less than 100 hectares of land for the facility. Noting the department briefed the consultative committees last year on the initial characterisation work, flora, fauna and cultural heritage studies including the development of the factsheets indicating that at least 100ha would be needed.

Ms Chard discussed the site characterisations work undertaken in the last 18 months, noting these studies give a clearer picture of the generic concept design to be adapted and the enabling infrastructure required for each site.

The Senate Economics References Committee recommended that a community agricultural research and development space be included in the facility; 20ha has been allowed for this site use.

Mr Rusk discussed the specific site characterisations below with the committee.

Lyndhurst site – the proposed operational footprint remains 40ha, inclusive of Low Level Waste (LLW) disposal vaults and Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) temporary storage

buildings. The size of the proposed buffer zone at this site has been increased from 60ha to approximately 100ha to accommodate site features, power infrastructure and road access, and the community agricultural R&D area, which will be approximately 20ha. The total will be approximately 160ha. The proposed siting of the facility has also been repositioned to minimise the impact on native vegetation, to improve access off the local road, and to take into account the landform conditions and predicted water movements.

Napandee site – no change to the 40ha operational footprint. The size of the proposed buffer zone at this site has been increased from 60ha to approximately 100ha to accommodate site features, power infrastructure and road access, and the community agricultural R&D area which will be approximately 20ha. The total will be approximately 160ha.

The Napandee and Lyndhurst sites require electricity infrastructure to support the facility in the form of an on-site solar farm and energy storage to improve reliability of supply.

Mr Rusk advised a bushfire risk assessment was undertaken during the site characterisation works to determine fire risks posed by native vegetation, and to provide guidance on locating the facility well away from large clumps of vegetation.

Groundwater present beneath the Napandee and Lyndhurst sites has been found to be of a salinity similar to or higher than seawater.

Flood risk on the Napandee and Lyndhurst sites was assessed to be low with the exception of a few lower points in the landscape. It will typically be possible to build up areas to get water drainage right.

The facility is still in conceptual design stage based on a generic site layout for site requirements. Future planning will be undertaken on the selected site to determine where to best locate buildings to work with and not against the topography/ slopes, and where possible to avoid clearance of native vegetation.

A member asked about soil types for the R&D zone.

Mr Rusk advised soil quality data has been obtained mainly from test pits excavated across the site.

Action_ KCC20190815/A05: The department will liaise with AECOM to obtain soil quality data and provide this to committee members, regarding the results of soil testing, such as salinity, Ph and nutrient levels, to guide optimal agricultural uses for the Research and Development (R&D) Zone.

Response: AECOM has provided data in response to this action item. This will be included as an attachment when the minutes are distributed.

Other questions

A member asked will water infrastructure be needed here?

- Mr Rusk advised preference would be to use SA Water supply from highway pipe as it would take too much energy to desalinate and transport an alternate water source.

A member asked how do you acquire that extra land to provide to the community?

- Ms Chard advised the government will acquire the total amount of land required for the site, which will include the buffer zone and the land for the community to undertake R&D activities, when the Minister makes a declaration under the *National Radioactive Waste Management Act 2012*.

A member asked how the department is going to assess the value of agricultural and industrial land?

- Ms Chard advised the landowner will make a claim for reasonable compensation and the department will assess the validity and reasonableness of the claim applying due diligence under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).
- Independent land valuers will look at all other rights and interests, including mining rights and business impacts.

A member asked what happens if there is a dispute over value?

- Ms Chard advised the department is obliged to demonstrate due diligence under the PGPA Act and with the spending of public money.

A member asked about current road access and upgrades?

- Ms Chard advised costing for similar detailed site design aspects will only be considered after site acquisition. Site-specific design will be undertaken to inform regulatory processes and this will inform if roads need to be upgraded. The department can provide information when we get more granular info, noting that council wants road maintenance cost factored in.

A member asked if Kimba is decided to be the host community, how will a decision be made between two currently nominated sites?

- Ms Chard advised the Minister will make the decision between all three sites, based a range of factors including on technical assessments and specifications.

A member asked how much water will the facility need?

- Mr Harrison advised a loading facility will include 2 large water pumps with diesel backup. Tanks will be sized to facilitate fire safety on site.

Action_ KCC20190815/A06: Shane Harrison committed to providing water flow rates for the facility, noting that the biggest water usage is to facilitate fire safety.

Response: Mr Harrison advised that the design flow rates were governed by the fire services design, and essential demand to refill fire water tanks. It was noted that the general daily water usage flow rates would be significantly less. Mr Harrison also advised that a recent change in the standards/build code has required an increase in the design provisions for this flow rate.

5. Site Security Measures – Post Acquisition

Ms Chard introduced Lachlan Pearce from Forcefield Services who is producing a report to assess and implement security arrangements at the acquired site. Mr Pearce has been contracted to provide advice on site security once land is acquired and prior to the commencement of construction. The department is considering how to manage a low risk scenario, such as agricultural fencing or no fencing and potential resources to be allocated to ongoing monitoring of the site.

Consideration will be given to managing the land in conjunction with the land owner. It may be possible for the owner to continue using the land until site works commence. Consultation with Department of Defence has also supported managing the land in the same way, noting they do conduct monitoring as any liability rests with the Commonwealth. Options include signage, patrols by employed community members or use of security cameras.

An agreement will be put in place for contingency support that may be provided. Ideas or concerns around security issues can be sent to the department at radioactivewaste@industry.gov.au or directly to Lachlan Pearce at Lachlan.Pearce@industry.gov.au.

Questions

A member asked regarding South Australia Country Fire Service (CFS) arrangements; what will be available in case of fire?

- Will have specifics once the site is decided as part of the regulatory requirements.

A member asked if there was any difference in fencing options or recommendations between the three nominated sites?

- Ms Chard advised no site specifics at this stage. There may be differences in the final approach, but all three sites have relatively similar requirements.

6. Transition Strategy

Jane Bailey introduced herself to the committee and outlined her role to develop strategies to assist community transition, post-site selection. To date the focus has been on supporting the communities through consultation, information exchange and access to expertise in relation to the siting, design and operation of the facility. Attention is now turning to how the Taskforce will engage with both communities through the next phases of the project. The Taskforce is keen to hear ideas and suggestions from the communities.

For the host community engagement with the residents will focus on providing information and consultation over the life of the project. It will also support the introduction of new consultative arrangements, the establishment of the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) and the roll-out of the funding package. Namely, the \$8m that will be available for skills development and training to assist residents to participate in the economic benefits from the construction and operation of the facility. The \$3m funding from the Indigenous Advancement Strategy and the \$20m Community Fund that will be provided to deliver benefits for the community and support long-term infrastructure and development priorities.

For the non-host community the focus will be on assisting the community to move on and realise other opportunities for economic development and social cohesion. Recognition of the commitment of many residents to the consultation and engagement processes will also be important. No specific funding for non-host community has been committed, however the Taskforce will employ a project officer over the next 12 months to assist the communities to link into alternative sources of government funding for community projects.

The Community Benefits Package (CBP) has already delivered a number of strategic projects for Kimba. The community now has an opportunity to build on that momentum and progress other ideas and improvements for the community.

Action_ KCC20190815/A07: The department to email the KCC members to request suggestions for possible legacy initiatives that may benefit the non-host community.

KCC20190815/A08: The department to provide an update on legacy initiatives for the non-host community once a site is selected.

KCC20190815/A09: The department to publish information regarding the Community Skills and Development Program (CSDP) on its website.

Questions

A member asked what will be the role of the RCC and who will manage it?

- Ms Bailey advised the RCC will be a consultative committee and will provide clear arrangements for communication between the Commonwealth, facility operator and the community. It will help the community leverage benefits available from the Community Development Package (CDP). The RCC will also ensure continued transparency of process, information and reporting between the government and community.

A member asked what the corporate structure will be and if a governance board will be set up?

- Ms Bailey advised the RCC is likely to have a board which may include Commonwealth membership, but the governance arrangements are still being developed.

A member asked how will support for the non-host community be implemented?

- Ms Bailey advised community consultation will be undertaken to gain an understanding of community views.
- A member noted that a funding package to council to run mental health programs would be welcomed and the sooner the department can provide clear advice to the community around this the better.
- The department welcomes ideas to be emailed directly to radioactivewaste@industry.gov.au, or directly to Ms Bailey at Jane.Bailey@industry.gov.au.
- Ms Bailey will be in the communities during the week of 16 September to consult directly.
- The focus will be on social cohesiveness for both host and non-host communities.

A member asked how the department will ensure the community is involved in deciding how funding will be rolled out when there are different community needs and interests to be met?

- Ms Bailey advised the councils are a key stakeholder and have a role in providing community views.

A member asked about economic development, specifically the criteria that would be used to evaluate what had been achieved through the investment of previous funding?

- The department noted the question and will consider how the consultative committees and economic working groups might contribute or be involved in any evaluation.
- The department welcomes ideas to be emailed through to radioactivewaste@industry.gov.au, or directly to Ms Bailey at Jane.Bailey@industry.gov.au.

A member asked for clarification, referring back to the point around there being no funding allocated to the non-host community and to clarify access to government and Commonwealth funding?

- The department will employ a project officer for one year to assist the non-host community to connect with other funding initiatives. Recruitment is currently underway for the role, which will be funded by the taskforce.
- A suggestion was made that a mental health advocate should be involved in any future funding support for mental health projects.

A member asked if a similar role (to that mentioned in the question above) would be established within the host community to help them?

- The funding package for the host community has been announced, details on the criteria for expenditure of the funds will be developed in the coming months

It was discussed that the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) is not well named.

- Ms Chard advised when the department amends the legislation there might be opportunity to amend the name of the RCC.

Action_ KCC20190815/A10: The department to publish on its website, information regarding the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC), such as its envisaged role and responsibilities, its establishment methodology, the process for selecting RCC members, and governance procedures, once determined.

7. Questions from the Committee

Before the questions session was opened, Ms Chard spoke about the recent developments around the CSIRO waste inventory at Woomera and advised the committee that a new factsheet is now available regarding the waste. The fact sheet was provided to the members.

- CSIRO now estimates that the amount of low-level radioactive waste (LLW) is less than 200 drums (in the store of almost 10,000 drums).

- There is no current indication that there is any intermediate level waste.
- The department offered to arrange for someone from CSIRO to attend the next meeting.

A member asked when the Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) would be available?

- Ms Chard advised information is now available via the Framework and fact sheets, but specific waste acceptance criteria can only be agreed and communicated once a site is decided. This will be modelled on site specifications and will go to the regulator for approval. It will be published after approval.
- All waste will need to be conditioned to meet the WAC.
- A suggestion was made that as much information as possible around this should be provided to the community to support an informed decision.

A member asked will the size of the facility be impacted by reduction in waste volumes from CSIRO?

- Ms Chard advised most waste will come from ANSTO and some from Woomera, so this will not significantly impact the size of the facility.

A member asked about the changes in site sizing and specifically if provisions had still been made for a 'tourism building'?

- Ms Chard advised a Visitor Centre has been provisioned. It will be outside the red zone where waste is being stored.
- The department is very open to ongoing discussion and ideas regarding the visitors' centre from the community.

A member asked if it had been a council decision to push forward with a site decision, noting that BDAC are planning an appeal and could secure an injunction?

- Ms Chard advised that she cannot comment on specifics of the appeal.

A member asked for clarification on what is broad community support, raising the concern that there had been no indication of what broad community support means? It was suggested that a clear indication was needed otherwise there will be ongoing conjecture that may impact community cohesiveness, and that an American expert source had referenced a benchmark of 80%.

- Convener advised this is a valid question for the Minister.
- Mr Scott will take this point to the Minister but is also interested to know what is the community's view of what broad community support means?
- Ms Chard advised that it is not just the vote (ballot) that will be considered – submissions, surveys, neighbour and indigenous sentiment are also being taken into consideration.

A member asked if the community will be advised in detail of 'how' a decision was made after that decision has been made by the Minister?

- Convener advised this is a valid question for the Minister.

KCC20190815/A11: The department to invite CSIRO to discuss results of their recent analysis of the amount and defined level of low level waste at Woomera.

KCC20190815/A12: The Secretariat to include updates on CSIRO's radioactive waste at Woomera, as an agenda item for next meeting.

8. Summary of the day

The Convener thanked members for their time, questions and commitment. No date set for next meeting.

Meeting closed 3.28pm