



Australian Government  
Department of Industry, Science,  
Energy and Resources

Australian  
Radioactive  
Waste Agency

# Kimba Consultative Committee Kimba Economic Working Group

General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 6 August 2020

# General Meeting Details

**Date:** Thursday 6 August 2020

**Time:** 10:00am – 11:30am local time

**Meeting was conducted via video- and teleconference**

## Agenda

**Convenor:** Allan Suter – Kimba Consultative Committee

ITEM	Lead	Key Points
1. Welcome	Convenor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledgement of Country</li> </ul>
2. Update	SamC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 impacts</li> <li>• BDAC</li> <li>• Mentally Fit Program</li> <li>• Legislation</li> <li>• Senate Committee Hearings and Report</li> </ul>
3. ARWA Launch	SamC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• What it means for Kimba</li> </ul>
4. Regional Consultative Committee	SamC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Dialogue’ consultation platform - release</li> <li>• Relationship to the Community Fund</li> <li>• Representation</li> <li>• Governance</li> </ul>
5. Community development	SamC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Benefit Program update</li> <li>• Community Skills and Development Program update</li> <li>• Community Fund                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Governance and structure</li> <li>○ Financial advice on fund management</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6. AECOM	SamC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next phase workplan</li> </ul>
7. Future initiatives	SamC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Transport</li> <li>• Visitor Information Centre</li> </ul>
8. Other business	Convenor	
<b>Meeting close</b>		

Prior to the meeting’s commencement, Sam Chard ran through some etiquette for TC/VC, including members muting themselves, unless speaking. She noted that members would be actively given the opportunity to ask questions through the course of the meeting.

It was noted that there were issues on the iPads connecting to the Skype meeting. Further, members were encouraged to attend via phones if the Skype system dropped out.

The department acknowledges that the IT arrangements were not ideal and appreciates members’ patience while we explore more user friendly solutions for remote meetings during the COVID-19 restrictions.

## Attendees

Via Skype (video and voice)

### Kimba Consultative Committee

Allan Suter (convenor)

Randall Cliff

Kerri Rayson

Dean Johnson (deputy convenor)

Kellie Hunt

Toni Scott

Heather Baldock

Sally Inglis

Peta Willmott

Jeff Baldock

Jeff Koch

Peter Woolford

Patricia Beinke

Meagan Jane Lienert

Amy Wright

### Kimba Economic Working Group

David Schmidt (Chair)

Debra Larwood

Charlie Milton

Laura Fitzgerald

Christine Lehmann

### Apologies

Symon Allen

### Australian Radioactive Waste Agency

Sam Chard

Chase Michaels

Janet Brown

Jane Bailey

Georgina Neuhaus

Nikola Kanard

Shane Holland

Nicholas Crowther

Maree Barford

## Action Items Register

Date	Action Item Number	Detail
06/08/2020	KCC20200806/A01	ARWA to continue to investigate more effective TC/VC options for the next meeting.
06/08/2020	KCC20200806/A02	Committee feedback on the mental health program to be provided to West Coast Youth and Community Services.
06/08/2020	KCC20200806/A03	ARWA to circulate links to the RCC online consultation in the week commencing 10 August.
06/08/2020	KCC20200806/A04	The department to organise for a range of presenters to attend a future KCC/KEWG meeting in order to discuss the options for the entity to control the community fund.
06/08/2020	KCC20200806/A05	ARWA to report back to the committee on the results of the RCC online consultation.
06/08/2020	KCC20200806/A06	ARWA to confirm guidelines for conflicts of interest with AusIndustry.
06/08/2020	KCC20200806/A07	KCC/KEWG to discuss Economic Development Officer in a meeting after this round of CBP has been finalised.
06/08/2020	KCC20200806/A08	Department to propose a model for managing conflicts of interest ahead of committee consideration of CBP applications.
06/08/2020	KCC20200806/A09	ARWA to confirm eligibility of the Koongawa Tennis Club project with AusIndustry.
06/08/2020	KCC20200806/A10	Within seven days, ARWA to circulate responses to the questions raised by ahead of the meeting by Peter Woolford and Toni Scott.
06/08/2020	KCC20200806/A11	Timing for review of CBP applications to be an agenda item for the next KCC/KEWG meeting.

# Minutes

Meeting commenced: 10:40AEST / 10:10am CST

## 1. Welcome

- The Chair thanked members for their ability to participate in this meeting at short notice
- The Chair explained that the purpose of this meeting was largely an information-update from the department, given the length of time since the last meeting
- The Chair provided a Welcome to Country

## 2. Update

- The Chair invited Ms Chard to present an update from the department
- Ms Chard thanked members for their patience with the platform being used to meet today (Skype), and acknowledged that there were departmental restrictions on what could be used. Ms Chard informed the committee we would continue to explore other avenues for meeting more effectively.
- Ms Chard noted that it was the understanding of the department that the restrictions on travel and gatherings, brought about by the current COVID-19 pandemic, would be in force for the foreseeable future, and that this would impact on the ability for meetings between the KCC/KEWG & the department to occur face-to-face
- Ms Chard confirmed her understanding that the KCC and KEWG would meet as a single entity; she indicated this was useful to streamline the communication and work between the department and the committees
- Ms Chard acknowledged the work of the Kimba Community Liaison Office, Maree Barford, and noted she hoped she would be back in the community soon
- Ms Chard thanked members of the KCC/KEWG for keeping the department informed of various issues in the Kimba community over the time since we were last able to meet, in February
- Mr Johnson explained that the Kimba Council had recently installed a new system in their Chambers, which may allow the members in Kimba to meet in the Council, and connect in to the department in Canberra. Ms Chard thanked Mr Johnson and also noted that the department were looking into installing a VC in the Kimba office, which could be another place for people to gather, in order to meet from there, also.

### The department's interactions with the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation (BDAC)

- Ms Chard provided an update on the department's interactions with BDAC, including:
  - facilitating a meeting between BDAC and Minister Pitt, which was unable to proceed as the Minister was unable to travel to South Australia, owing to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, and BDAC's preference to meet face to face.
- Ms Chard explained that the department had provided BDAC, in writing, with an offer to engage in a funded agreement; and that recent correspondence may be tabled and made public during the Senate Inquiry process.
- Ms Chard reaffirmed the department's commitment to ongoing dialogue with BDAC, and its hope to meet soon.

### Mentally Fit EP

- Ms Chard explained that the department has received positive feedback regarding the Mentally Fit EP program in Kimba, and that the department was very keen to understand committee members' views.
- A member commented that they were concerned there had not been sufficient advertising, and communication about Mentally Fit EP's planned activities.
- A member noted that Mentally Fit EP communication about its activities had improved over time, particularly via the school. Posters have been supplied, which will go up on the local noticeboards around town. Further, the Kimba Mental Health & Wellbeing Group will be publishing a newsletter in the week commencing 10 August 2020, which will include Mentally Fit EP contact details. Mentally Fit EP have also been working well with the local Mental Health & Wellbeing Group

## Legislation

- Ms Chard provided an update on the legislative amendments to *the National Radioactive Waste Management Act 2012*, currently before the Federal Parliament
- Ms Chard noted that the amendments had been passed by the House of Representatives, and are currently before the Senate Standing Committee on Economics, which is expected to hold their final hearing soon.
- Ms Chard noted that members may be aware that the Senate Committee requested Ministerial briefs and correspondence from the Department in response to a Question on Notice, and that these were provided to the Committee in redacted form.
- The redactions were necessary to account for legally privileged and Cabinet information. The Committee and the Government are discussing how to handle the information, and the Committee rescheduled their final hearing until this was resolved.
- The committee is expected to report by the 31 August.
- Once the committee process has concluded, the Government will consider the inquiry recommendations before the Bill is debated in the Senate, potentially in October or November 2020.
- Ms Chard thanked those members of the Committee and wider community who participated in hearings over the previous few weeks; Ms Chard acknowledged that this could be a confronting experience, and wanted to express her thanks for participants' engagement, noting how important it is for the Committee to hear a range of views across the community.
- The Chair noted that the restrictions on gatherings due to COVID in South Australia are different to those in other parts of Australia, he hoped it would be feasible for the Kimba cohort to meet in one location together (be it at Council or the Departmental office in Kimba), in order to then meet with the Canberra cohort all in one room, if members are agreeable.

**KCC20200806/A01** ARWA to continue to investigate more effective TC/VC options for the next meeting.

**KCC20200806/A02** Committee feedback on the mental health program to be provided to West Coast Youth and Community Services.

## 3. ARWA Launch

- The Chair invited Ms Chard to provide the committee with an update on the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA)
- Ms Chard noted that Committee members had received an email from the Department in July 2020 announcing the establishment of the Agency. This development addressed two outstanding questions about the Facility proposal: what entity would operate the Facility, and what entity would progress work on a permanent intermediate level waste disposal Facility. Ms Chard confirmed that ARWA would do both.
- Ms Chard explained that regulators were keen for continuity through the program, with a preference for a single entity responsible for the design of the facility, regulatory approvals, development, and operation. This approach would avoid the risk of one entity making decisions that were challenging for another future entity to manage.
- Ms Chard explained that ARWA would be dedicated to radioactive waste management, rather than a side-business of another agency, and reflected the Government's commitment to best-practice radioactive waste management, nationally.
- ARWA is a Commonwealth entity, initially established with the department, and subsuming the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility Taskforce. Over the next two years, ARWA's capability will be developed and it will become a non-corporate Commonwealth entity under its own legislation.
- ARWA will continue to work closely with ANSTO, who provide their support and extensive expertise.
- Regarding the connection of ARWA to the community around the site: ARWA will have approximately 35 APS jobs + a contracted workforce. Whilst these jobs will be mostly based in Adelaide, the department expects at least three to be in Kimba (e.g., for community engagement, and site management).

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- It is important to have the majority of this workforce based in a capital city, because the Agency needs to be well-connected to government, academia, and other organisations. The Agency will also be trying to recruit domestic and international expertise, to build a technical capability, and it will be more likely to be able to recruit in a capital city than in a region. However, there is certainly scope for many of these positions to be well-connected to and work closely with the community.
- Ms Chard made reference to the recent media reporting about an 'unmanned facility' and reiterated that there were no plans to operate the NRWFM as an unmanned facility

### The Chair invited members to ask questions regarding the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA)

- A member asked: What is the envisaged role of the two current committees (Kimba Consultative Committee and Kimba Economic Working Group), considering they are now working as one, and there will be a new committee. Further, how many times do you expect the KCC/KEWG to meet?
  - The Chair suggested that this question might be better answered in the next item on the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC)
  - Ms Chard thanked the member for the question, and acknowledged some of this would be covered under the next item. However, she clarified that the RCC will be established once the site is acquired, and in the meantime these committees will keep operating.
  - The department has a large schedule of topics to consult the community on, and so anticipates meeting monthly.

## 4. Regional Consultative Committee

- The Chair invited Ms Chard to provide an update on the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC)
- Ms Chard commenced by clarifying the interaction between the RCC and the Community Fund. In particular, there is no legislated requirement for the RCC to have a role in managing the \$20m community fund.
- Under the legislation currently before the Parliament, there is a requirement that the RCC is consulted and provide advice on the type of entity that is established to manage the fund and its governance arrangements; however the RCC itself does not have to take a management role.
- The RCC could play a role similar to the current KCC/KEWG, in the way it provides advice on the Community Benefits Program, but there is no requirement for this to occur, and would be a decision based on community feedback.
- In terms of timing the RCC will be established after a site is acquired. The RCC will effectively replace the KCC and the KEWG, and will be the single formal committee in operation
- The RCC will be the primary mechanism the government uses to consult and share information with the community, it will play an important role in facilitating community feedback to the department.
- In order to help develop the arrangements for the committee, the department has a range of questions it would like the committee's views on (this was flagged at a previous meeting, prior to COVID constraints)
- The online consultation forum will be available for this purpose, from the week 10 August 2020, and departmental officers will be available for one-on-one support as needed
- Ms Chard noted this will be the department's first time using the platform; and we would be grateful for feedback. If members have questions or need clarification, reach out to the team.

### A discussion ensued regarding the proposed membership of the committee

- A member posed a question, seeking more information regarding the membership of the committee
  - Ms Chard explained that nothing was determined yet, however, her view was that the committee needs to be able to provide feedback both to and from the community and assist ARWA and the community to work through hurdles to the project and leverage broader regional opportunities to deliver economic benefits to the community. In this context, it may be useful to include regional and state government agencies, for example, the Regional Development Australia, local council/s, and potentially the state government.
- A member raised the importance of members of the RCC having relevant experience and qualifications. Ms Chard concurred that this is the sort of thing members need to think about when providing their feedback on the RCC.
- A member raised further questions regarding the Community Fund, its management, and the role of the RCC with the fund manager. Specifically, who would select the fund manager, and how would the fund be used?



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- Ms Chard explained that the department was happy to receive feedback on precisely these issues, and that consultation on the fund would occur through the dialogue platform, in the coming months. Ms Chard noted her previous commitment to facilitate presenters from a range of consultancies to come and speak to the KCC/KEWG about different fund structure options, as part of the consultation.
- Ms Chard noted that the Minister would need to be satisfied that the fund structure was appropriate before Government would provide it with \$20m, but that government has committed to a community-controlled entity, and it would be heavily influenced by advice from the community on the nature of the entity that would manage the fund.

**KCC20200806A/03** ARWA to circulate links to the RCC online consultation in the week commencing 10 August

**KCC20200806A/04** The department to organise for a range of presenters to attend a future KCC/KEWG meeting in order to discuss the options for the entity to control the community fund

- A member noted that the RCC seemed to have no say or control on any matters.
  - Ms Chard noted that there is a lot to be determined about the role and operations of the RCC, and the online platform was a good starting point for this. If, for example, we receive overwhelming feedback that the RCC should go beyond 'consultation' and be a decision-making forum on particular issues, the department would put that advice to the Minister, to inform his decision making on the RCC terms.
  - Ms Chard encouraged members not to feel constrained by the questions posed on the Dialogue consultation platforms; if members have views they want to share, make them clear.
- A member raised the definition of 'regional,' and that this had been discussed and dealt with in the December 2019 workshop; the member asked whether we could share the definition of 'regional' that was reached?
  - Ms Chard stated she was not sure a definition had been determined, and if it had been determined for another purpose (the fund or the council ballot for example, it didn't need to necessarily be consistent, and may not be appropriate to the RCC's purpose.
  - Ms Chard noted that it may be more useful to think about who/which entities would contribute to the productivity and functioning of the consultative committee, rather than create a hard definition of "regional".
  - A member further contributed that perhaps organisations such as RDA should have a seat at the table, but not necessarily a vote (stakeholder/partner/non-voting member/observer status)
  - The Chair concluded this discussion by noting that there were a lot of details to be worked through on the RCC, and that whilst some might be resolved through this online platform feedback, the Committee should also meet and spend some time discussing the RCC.
  - Ms Chard agreed, and noted that the feedback received via the online platform would help guide such a conversation. Once this process has closed, the department will collate the responses, and report back to the committee, in order to progress any further necessary conversations.

**KCC20200806/A05** ARWA to report back to the committee on the results of the RCC online consultation.

## 5. Community Skills & Development Package (CSDP)

- The Chair invited Ms Chard to give an update on the Community Skills and Development Package
- Ms Chard began by thanking members for their continued involvement in the Community Benefit Program (CBP), and noted that AusIndustry had also been supplying assistance to the community in order to progress their applications



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- Ms Chard reminded the committee that the CSDP was an \$8 million package, envisaged to be spread over four years (of \$2million a year) to help the community upskill, so that they could take advantage of the employment, business, and economic opportunities the facility will bring
- Ms Chard provided some examples this funding could go to, such as job/skills training, building business capabilities so they could take advantage of the surge of activity, especially during the construction phase.
- Ms Chard further noted that government construction and service contracts were likely to include requirements to ensure local and indigenous participation; however, this will be dependent on the local community having these skills, and the CSDP was intended to support that.
- Ms Chard explained that, following the use of the online platform for RCC and community fund consultation, the department was intending to run a similar exercise for the CSDP

### A discussion ensued regarding funding to the community

- A member explained that Council had spent some time already discussing the CSDP and how to best take advantage of it for the wider community. It was noted that Council had applied for CBP funding for an Economic Development Officer in order to look at and take advantage of options. There was a plan to partner with RDA to recruit someone with appropriate skills in workforce planning. The member noted that, given the lag times between the CBP and the CSDP, there may be a chance that economic opportunities will be wasted, as there will not be opportunity for appropriate planning
  - Ms Chard noted that she understood the concerns, and was always keen to discuss opportunities; she specifically noted that this should be picked up for discussion again following the finalisation of this round of CBP funding.
- A member noted that there had previously been a discussion regarding conflict of interest and the CBP. Under previous CBP rounds, the committee members had decided there were not any conflicts because individuals were not personally benefitting from projects, however, for some of the larger projects, was this now a concern?
  - Members discussed that, previously, any conflicts had been declared, but that it had been decided these weren't significant. There was consensus that these issues needed to be resolved prior to the evaluation of applications
  - Ms Chard committed to clarifying with AusIndustry about their conflict of interest guidelines and processes, and sharing that information with the committee via email, so members can consider and determine a plan. Ms Chard noted it was important that, ultimately, this forum was happy with its decision on how to manage conflicts.
- A member raised the case of an applicant who was informed they were ineligible because they were not based within the council area, even though a large portion of their members were ratepayers in the Kimba LGA
  - Ms Chard asked the member to send her some more specific information on the applicant via email, and she would discuss with AusIndustry. Whilst the rules/guidelines of the CBP could not and would not be changed, it can be looked in to.

**KCC20200806/A06** KCC/KEWG to discuss Economic Development Officer in a meeting after this round of CBP has been finalised.

**KCC20200806/A07** ARWA to confirm guidelines for conflicts of interest with AusIndustry.

**KCC20200806/A08** Committee to clarify their position regarding conflicts of interest and to establish a process for managing these issues.

**KCC20200806/A09** ARWA to confirm eligibility of Koongawa Tennis Club AusIndustry.

## 6. AECOM

- The Chair invited Ms Chard to provide an update on AECOM's work
- Ms Chard explained to the committee that AECOM were soon to commence work on the site characterisation. Namely, in the week 10 August, a small aircraft would fly over the Napandee site at about 1000m to take measurements; no on-ground work would occur at this time
- Ms Chard further noted that AECOM are seeking to employ environmental monitors in the local area as the work program progresses. This will include non-intrusive work, such as seismic, air quality, and flora & fauna studies.
- Members had no further questions on this item

## 7. Future initiatives – agriculture, transport, and visitor centre

- The Chair invited Ms Chard to provide an update on some of the future initiatives related to the project
- Ms Chard noted that there was a large range of issues the department will be seeking the community's input on through the next phase; we have already touched on the RCC and CSDP
- Other priorities will include a discussion about the facility design, for example, the location of the visitor's centre. Elements of the discussion will include, what would be most efficient and effective for the town, and deliver better economic opportunity for the community? Ms Chard noted that the department would obtain information on tourism demand, in order to help assess this question. The department has commenced a conversation with RDA, and are looking to engage with Tourism SA and other relevant agencies. Once again, the government wants to maximise the opportunities this facility will provide. This will be a topic on the online platform, and then for discussion at a future meeting
- Regarding agriculture, whilst the government maintains there will be no adverse effects to agriculture in the area, we hear that concerns within the community remain. As such, the department wants to understand what we can do to help alleviate some of these concerns, including, given the facility will include a research & development sector, what sort of R&D should be explored, who should be involved, how should this be managed, what sorts of programs, monitoring, and activities there should be etc.
- Regarding transport, the department will be commencing a piece of work on the transport routes and modes. The department is working with CSIRO, ANSTO, and AECOM to create a picture of viable transport routes and modes. This work is somewhat complex, as we need to have an understanding of the waste acceptance criteria, in order to define the packages the waste will be transported in, to then assess how it can be transported. In order to inform this work, the department is compiling more detailed information on the national inventory of waste, to then understand specific volumes and types of waste. This will then help us understand what the packages might need to look like, so we can assess viable transport routes for these packages. Once we have some more of this detailed, technical information, we will be able to develop this work further. This is also a topic that will need to be explored by the committee using the online platform, and in future meetings.
- Members had no further questions on this item

## 8. Other business

- The Chair invite members to raise any further business
- The Chair noted some members had submitted some additional questions via email prior to this meeting; it was noted these might be best addressed by the department in writing
  - Members asked if these questions could be circulated; Ms Chard confirmed that the answers provided by the department, and therefore the questions, would be circulated, within 7 days
- A member asked to continue the conversation regarding the CBP; the member felt there had not been a consensus reached on the eligibility of projects, and if there would be a limit to the amount of funding projects could apply for
  - It was agreed that these issues needed to be resolved prior to the meeting in which the KCC/KEWG members would assess the applications; it was determined that some time would be allocated in the next meeting to discuss this in more detail

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- Ms Chard encouraged this.
- Ms Chard noted that the guidelines for the CBP had been influenced and agreed to by this committee, and that it would not be possible to change them at this time; however, that did not remove the ability to confirm the guidelines with AusIndustry and be sure all eligible projects and groups were given the opportunity to provide applications.
- A member noted that AusIndustry would have the final say, and that the role of this committee was to provide advice on the applications.
- Members further reinforced their previously stated position that they would like to receive the details of the applicants in plenty of time prior to the assessment meeting, in order to make informed decisions about the applications. Members discussed the need for an appropriate level of confidentiality around this process and the applications. Ms Chard undertook to clarify the process and this requirement with AusIndustry.
- Ms Chard encouraged members to be in touch with the department with any procedural or clarification questions, so that we could ensure that the committee was provided all the information required, prior to the assessment meeting, in order to inform their recommendations.
- There being no further questions, the Chair thanked members for their participation, their patience with the technology, and their engagement.
- The Chair brought the meeting to a close

**KCC20200806/A10** Within seven days, ARWA to circulate responses to the questions raised by ahead of the meeting by Peter Woolford.

**KCC20200806/A11** Timing for review of CBP applications to be an agenda item for the next KCC/KEWG meeting.

**Meeting closed 12:22AEST / 11:52CST.**