



Kimba Consultative Committee and Kimba Economic Working Group Meeting

Date: Thursday 16 June 2022

Time: 9:00am– 1.30pm (local time)

Location: Eyre Business, 38 High Street, Kimba

MINUTES

KCC Independent Convener: Allan Suter

KCC Deputy Convener: Dean Johnson

KEWG Chair: David Schmidt

AGENDA

Deputy Convener: Dean Johnson – Kimba Consultative Committee

Item	Lead	Key points
1. Welcome	Dean Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housekeeping
2. ARWA update	David Osborn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgement of Country Introduction of staff ARWA staff update General Update New Government and Minister
3. ARWA legal update	Rachel Rea (VC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judicial Review Constitutional Challenge
4. Cultural heritage progress update	Amelia Yaron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress and consultation
10:30am-10:50am Morning tea		
5. Site Assessment	Daniel Pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress and consultation
6. Aerial Survey	Yusen LeyCooper & Anand Ray, Geoscience Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation by Geoscience Australia on upcoming helicopter survey
12.30pm – 1.30pm Lunch at the Kimba Café		

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Item	Lead	Key points
7. EPBC Update	Amanda Fortanier (VC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Status and next steps
8. RCC Timeline	Jane Uptlen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current status of regulations• Timeline to operational
9. Grants Update	Jane Uptlen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CBP Round 3 status• Economic Development consultancy
10. Other business	Dean Johnson	
3pm Afternoon Tea and Meeting Close		

Committee Member	Attendance
Allan Suter (Convener)	Apology
Dean Johnson (Deputy Convener)	Accepted
Symon Allen	Apology
Jeff Baldock	Accepted via VC
Heather Baldock	Accepted
Pat Beinke	Apology
Randall Cliff	Accepted
Kellie Hunt	Accepted
Sally Inglis	Accepted via VC
Jeff Koch	Apology
Meagan Lienert	Apology
Kerri Rayson	Accepted
Toni Scott	Accepted
Peta Willmott	Accepted
Peter Woolford	Accepted
Amy Wright	Accepted
David Schmidt (Chair KEWG)	Accepted
Laura Fitzgerald	Accepted
Debra Larwood	Accepted
Christine Lehmann	Accepted
Charlie Milton	Accepted

Australian Radioactive Waste Agency

Staff attending:

- David Osborn, General Manager, Safety and Technical
- Daniel Pond, Manager, Design & Site
- Jane Uptlen, Manager, Communications & Engagement
- Amelia Yaron, Assistant Manager, Indigenous Engagement

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- Megan Rusk, Assistant Manager, Communications & Engagement
- Jim Haskett, Site Supervisor
- Deb Francis, Community Liaison Officer

Staff attending via VC:

- Rachael Rea, Senior Legal Counsel
- Amanda Fortanier, Manager, Radiological Safety
- Jon Shatwell, Manager, Waste Management Function
- Howie Fei, Technical & Safety
- Katerina Korbel, Indigenous Engagement Officer
- Jen Simpson, Manager, Radioactive Waste Policy

Geoscience Australia

Presenters attending:

- Dr Yusen LeCooper
- Dr Anand Ray

Outstanding action items

Item number	Detail	Status
KCC20210826/A02	Provide detailed radionuclide descriptions for the ILW coming to Kimba	IN PROGRESS
KCC20210826/A05	Look at getting UQ to update the social impacts of the facility aspect of their report	PENDING

New action items

Item number	Detail
KCC20220616/A01	Present / share more information about bore holes locations when this is further advanced
KCC20220616/A02	ARWA to seek more information from relevant areas on what other grants do to incorporate the broader community
KCC20220616/A03	ARWA to explore option of potentially recording KCC meetings and making the recordings available to members.
KCC20220616/A04	Resend final RDA-EP visitor information centre to members

1 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The Deputy Convener opened the meeting at 9:00am (local time). The deputy convener outlined housekeeping arrangements and proposed breaks throughout the day. Members agreed to have

photographs taken throughout the day. The Deputy Convener then invited David Osborn to deliver an Acknowledgement of Country.

Mr Osborn thanked members for their continued engagement and introduced colleagues Rachael Rae, Amanda Fortanier, Jon Shatwell, Howie Fei, and Katerina Korbel joining the meeting via Teams, and the ARWA team members in person: Jane Uptlen, Daniel Pond, Amelia Yaron, Megan Rusk, Jim Haskett and Deb Francis, and also introduced presenters from Geoscience Australia Dr Yusen LeCooper and Dr Anand Ray.

2 ARWA Update

ARWA Staff update

Mr Osborn updated the members on the commencement of ARWA's new Chief Operating Officer Jodie Lindsay. Ms Lindsay joins ARWA from the National Rail Safety Regulator and was previously the Chief Operating Officer of the Indigenous Land Corporation. She has great experience and will be a huge asset to ARWA. Jodie is hoping to get to Kimba soon.

Sam Usher ARWA's CEO will be permanently in Australia from the end of July. He plans to come out to Kimba again his first week here, so he may be in attendance at the next KCC if we can get the dates to line up.

NDA Visit

Mr Osborn shared that recently ARWA have hosted a peer assist visit from Helen Cassidy and Richard Cummings the UK's Nuclear Waste Services, part of the Nuclear Decommission Authority. They were in Australia to share their experience in managing a nuclear waste facility and give ARWA advice. They will be offering ARWA their feedback on ways ARWA can streamline and improve. They both loved the opportunity to visit Kimba, and were overwhelmed by the size of Australia, they were taking photos of the width of the roads and the size of the trucks.

Update to the National Inventory Report

Mr Osborn shared that while there has been a lot of interest in the national inventory report that has been being worked on for a while unfortunately publication of the report was delayed by the caretaker period. It now needs to be considered by the new Minister.

New Government and Minister

Mr Osborn explained the new Minister for the Department is Madeleine King and was supportive of the legislation updates previously, and was the shadow minister. Minister King recently made comments to ABC supporting the program. For ARWA it is business as usual under the new government.

3 ARWA Legal update

Mr Osborn invited Racheal Rea to provide an update on the litigation on foot being the Judicial Review application and recently filed Constitutional challenge. In the Judicial Review matter, a case management hearing was held on 15 June 2022 to discuss how the matter will be managed going forward. As categories for discovery were not able to be negotiated with the Applicants, the Judge listed a time for the parties to have a short hearing for her to decide on the categories. In simple terms, the Judge will look at the documents the Applicants wants from the Minister and will apply the law to determine which ones her Honour considers need to be provided. Other matters were briefly covered including her Honour indicating that she would hope the Applicants would be provided sufficient notice of any ground-disturbing works and the timing of the next case management hearing for this matter and the constitutional matter.

The new Constitutional Matter was filed in May and differs from the Judicial review matter in that it doesn't challenge the Minister's decision under the Act to acquire the land but the constitutional powers of the Government to make provisions of the Act.

Whilst originally her Honour scheduled the next case management hearings and discovery hearing for 11 July, this has now been rescheduled to 15 August.

Mr Osborn asked if there were any questions or comments from the committee.

A discussion followed questions regarding the plans of ARWA if BDAC is successful in the Judicial Review. Ms Rea explained that in regards to the Constitutional matter it could potentially be heard before the judicial review and if it is found that there was power in the constitution to make the provisions of the Act in question, the Judicial Review may be redundant. However if the Judicial Review is successful, it will have the effect that the decision of the Minister will have been deemed not to have been made. There will also be potential for appeals on both sides.

Mr Osborn noted that the Judicial Review is not about merit, it is about process. If the Judicial Review is successful then the Minister could go back and consider remaking the decision.

4 Indigenous Engagement

Cultural Heritage assessment

Mr Johnson invited Ms Yaron to provide the members with an update on the Cultural Heritage Assessment.

Ms Yaron shared that the Cultural Heritage Assessment in Kimba is continuing and contractors AECOM continues to engage with BDAC to see if there is anyone who would like to see and visit the project site. BDAC have been invited to work together with AECOM on the Cultural Heritage Assessment but BDAC have declined and have said they will provide their own assessment report which ARWA are currently waiting to receive. This report will assist ARWA to navigate any cultural heritage concerns.

This week there are AECOM archaeologists on site conducting surface inspection.

Remediation Works

Ms Yaron shared that the Wallerberdina remediation works which is filling in the bore holes is now complete it has taken place with contractors, Traditional Owners from ATLA and VYAC and ARWA staff on site. This was well attended by the Traditional Owners and the contractors were culturally respectful and the work progressed successfully. This has been a lengthy process as the land has changed owners and the current owners requested the bores to be kept and used for water access, however the bores are not fit for that purpose and were unable to enable that.

The Lyndhurst site remediation works is still in the planning stage.

Cultural heritage on the NRWMF site

Mr Osborn pointed out that the design of the site incorporates the existing vegetation with minimal clearing and plans are to increase tree numbers where possible taking into consideration the natural vegetation.

A member asked if anyone can go out to the site.

Mr Osborn responded that everyone is welcome to go out and view the site from the road, no one is allowed on the site, however if someone has a specific reason to go onto the site they are welcome to ask and a site visit can be arranged depending on the merit of the request. ARWA are taking cultural heritage very seriously and are currently undertaking cultural assessment work to inform a cultural heritage management plan.

A member asked if the cultural assessment is site specific or is it over a more broad area. Ms Yaron responded that it is site specific mainly, with roadways included, a larger area survey will most likely to be intangible rather than tangible evidence.

5 Site Assessment

Mr Johnson invited Mr Daniel Pond to share information of the site assessment works.

Mr Pond provided an overview of planned upcoming site characterisation activities and the resources that will be happening in the near future.

Survey of naturally occurring radiation and surface soil sampling and testing

2 people will be involved.

A handheld meter will be used to measure the levels of naturally occurring radiation at the ground surface. A hand trowel or shovel will be used to collect samples of soil from the ground surface for testing by laboratories.

This will be people walking the site taking measurements every 10m to get radiological baseline to determine naturally occurring radioactive material or activity. As the environment/everywhere has natural radioactivity. This is to make our clear baseline we can measure against once we get to operational. ANSTO use this baseline detail regularly as a part of licence applications for new facilities on the Lucas Heights site, they've been operational for 60 years and still refer to it.

Locations for survey will be the site, properties near to the site and along the local roads near the site and towards Kimba.

A member asked how far down these samples would be going. Mr Pond responded by saying that these are surface soil samples only.

Geophysical surveys to map soil and rock layers

Carried out by approx. 12 people

The survey involves use of a vibrating steel plate attached to a truck that sends energy waves into the underlying ground. The energy waves that are reflected from the soil and rock back to the surface are measured using sensors / metal rods pushed into ground that send the data through cables to computers. This process is repeated along "survey lines" across parts of the site.

The survey will collect information on the structure of the soil and rock layers beneath the site. The location of the survey will be on the site.

Questions were raised about the purpose of this survey is. Mr Pond explained that it is to get a sense of what faults and seismic conditions underground are.

Flora and Fauna Surveys

2 – 6 people will be involved in carrying out observations to document species, and where required setup of pitfall traps to catch (and release) small mammals and reptiles.

Egg-laying mounds of Malleefowl were located within Pinkawillinie Conservation Park in spring 2021, with cameras setup at few active mounds to record footage of birds into summer 2022

Traditional Owners will be invited to document flora and fauna species in the local area including species that may be of cultural use for food, medicine, and craft and in stories.

Locations of the surveys will be the site, properties near to the site, alongside local roads used to travel to the site, and Conservation reserves near the site and local roads.

Discussions and questions around how far out were the surveys undertaken considering the size of the Pinkawillinie conservation park. Mr Haskett advised that the closest mound was situated approximately 4 kilometres from the site.

The fire risk of the Pinkawillinie conservation reserve was also discussed, and the committee noted it is important to share the information gained from these surveys so that the areas can be preserved better by all, especially in regards to the identification of potential fire risks.

Mr Osborn explained ARWA will be moving forward to work with the South Australian Government to see what ARWA can do to improve ecology in the area.

Mr Pond said the process is a ground truthing exercise to find out exactly what species are out there.

Drilling of boreholes for soil, rock and groundwater sampling and testing

This survey will be carried out by approximately 10 people.

A rig will drill boreholes beneath the ground surface to document the soils and rock, conduct field tests and to collect samples for testing by laboratories. Sensor tools will be temporarily placed down boreholes to identify the presence of groundwater and aquifer properties.

Groundwater bores will be constructed within boreholes, to enable collect of samples for testing by laboratories.

Any boreholes not converted in groundwater bores will be backfilled with grout. Groundwater bores that are no longer needed for sampling or monitoring will also be decommissioned by backfilling with grout.

Water samples will be collected from groundwater bores, farm dams, drainage lines and rainwater gauges or tanks. Water samples will be tested at laboratories.

The bores will vary in diameter between 50 and 250mm and range in depth from 3 to 100m.

The locations of these surveys are the site, properties near to the site and alongside local roads near the site.

Discussion and questions from the members included what the long term plan for water is.

Mr Pond responded that the water table is about 20m below the surface and, while somewhat of an exaggeration, stated that it consists of salt with a little bit of water, along Tola Rd this might differ.

ARWA will provide this information to the community, as it is to look at the radiological content but other minerals too.

The committee raised the issue of whether the information will be able to be released to the broader farming communities. Mr Osborn stated that can't promise to share all the data, but would like to create community benefit with information ARWA gather, so will share what is able to be shared.

Mr Pond stated that he can come back and present information about where the work is taking place and where people want bores holes moved can be taken into account. Questionnaires will be sent out to understand what is in near land, and that ARWA would like to take samples from other properties but that will be part of a formal process.

Action Item	Details
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KCC20220616/A01	ARWA to share more information about planned bore holes locations when this is further advanced.
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Dust and air sampling and testing – and weather station

2 people will be involved. AECOM proposes to employ a local person to conduct the dust sampling and assist with other sampling activities.

Samples of dust and air will be collected on a regular basis using equipment attached to tripods/ stands, for testing by laboratories for background levels of radionuclides.

Climate data (e.g. wind direction and speed, rainfall, temperature) will be recorded from an on-site weather station that comprises a number of instruments placed near the ground surface and top of a mast.

Locations for the testing will be on the site, properties near to the site, alongside local roads near the site and conservation reserve near the site.

Native vegetation sampling and testing

2 people will be involved.

Samples of native vegetation will be collected from a few locations using shears or scissors and tested by laboratories for background levels of radionuclides.

Locations for the surveys will be on the site, properties near to the site, and alongside local roads near the site.

Produce, livestock and game animal sampling and testing

2 people will be involved.

Samples of crops such as wheat grown on nearby farms, garden vegetables and fruits, livestock (e.g. sheep, chickens and eggs), game animals (e.g. rabbits) will be collected for testing by laboratories for background levels of radionuclides.

Locations will be the properties near to the site.

Excavation of pits for sampling and testing of soils

3 people will be involved.

An excavator will also be used to dig pits or trenches to document the soils and rock, and to collect samples for testing by laboratories.

The pits will typically be 1 by 2m and up to 3m deep.

Locations of the excavation pits will be on the site and along local roads near the site and towards Kimba.

Geotechnical Surveys to measure soil strength

4 people will be involved.

The strength and resistance to penetration of the underlying shallow soils will be tested by driving a metal rod into the ground using a sliding metal hammer.

The strength and ease of driving piles into the ground for future construction of the solar microgrid (series of solar panels fixed to steel piles driven into the ground) will be tested using a drilling rig that pushes steel piles into the ground.

Locations of the works are the site and along local roads near the site and towards Kimba.

The committee raised the issue of whether the recent historically high rainfall would impact the data. Mr Pond responded that it would, and tests will be regularly conducted to take into account recent weather conditions.

Service Location and Visual Identification

4 people will be involved.

Hand-held tools including ground penetrating radar will be used to locate underground services. If the type and depth of the underground service needs to be visually identified, then potholing, which involves high-pressure water jetting and a vacuum hose to remove loose soil, will be undertaken. Locations will be along local roads near the site and towards Kimba.

Geophysical Surveys to measure electrical resistance in soils

2 – 3 people will be involved.

The amount that soil resists or conducts electrical current will be measured at locations where the solar micro-grid and other electrical equipment are proposed to be located. An electrical current is placed into the soil via electrodes (metal pins that are pushed into the soil surface) with measurements of the current taken along a series of electrodes.

Location will be on the site.

A member asked what the timeframe of these works are. Mr Pond stated the works should take 12 - 18 months. A member also asked if multiple works could be done at the same time. Mr Pond responded that while they can be there will be challenges in organising contractors, ARWA's capacity to support and they will also be influenced by what is found in earlier works as well as capacity for accommodation within and around Kimba.

Discussion ensued among the members regarding the characterisation of the Tola Rd and if the road will be an all-weather road. With Mr Osborn stating that some of this work is looking at characterising the road, and the design of the road is more the District Council of Kimba. Ms Larwood stated that the District Council of Kimba are working with ARWA on the road and the road will ultimately be the council's road. The first phase is to complete a detailed design, an EOI is out now for 6 weeks. Council will set up an evaluation panel to assess this. Mr Osborn added the scope of works will take into account the current users and use of the road. He stated the project is at the design and costing stage, not at construction phase, and the Government will make the decisions in the future about funding and building the road. Various options will have to be given regarding the build of the road and one of those options will be an all-weather option. Ms Larwood stated that ultimately it will be the council's road, the council will prefer a sealed road, but that is more expensive to maintain.

6 Aerial Survey

Mr Johnson invited Mr Osborn to introduce Dr Yusen LeyCooper and Dr Anand Ray from Geoscience Australia to present their information about an upcoming aerial survey.

Dr LeyCooper and Dr Ray, gave some background information about airborne electromagnetic surveys that are being done all over Australia. Geoscience Australia in collaboration with ARWA and CSIRO will be carrying out an airborne electromagnetic survey near Kimba in early July weather dependent.

The survey will enhance the understanding of hydrogeology of the region. The survey will collect geophysical data that will be used to characterise subsurface conditions at and surrounding the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility.

The method of survey will be via a helicopter, which is fitted with instruments to map variations in the natural electrical conductivity of the ground to a depth of several hundred metres.

During the survey, a signal will be transmitted from the aircraft to the ground, similar to that produced by a power-line but passes quickly as the aircraft moves.

Towed antennae can detect the returned signals. The nature of these signals will be analysed to map variations in the electrical conductivity of the ground caused by the presence of groundwater and some minerals.

People may see a helicopter towing equipment below, it will fly approximately 100 metres above the ground, along straight flight paths 100 – 500metres apart. This survey is not done for mineral exploration the data is multi-use and will help to characterise the site and the broader Kimba region

The committee asked whether this follows the same principle as EM38, which is correct, but is on a different frequency. The committee also asked how this will fit in with the rest of the surveying and will the drilling rigs be using this information to identify where to drill regarding ground water. Mr Pond stated that yes these results will inform other assessment works. The committee queried what the purpose of this survey is and how does it fit into the facility.

Mr Osborn stated that the results of the survey may affect the design of the facility in the engineering decisions such as slabs, pylons and where they are placed. It will be important information for the post closure modelling of the site with the more information the better outcomes there will be.

The information will be able to review water systems, and things that may exist but we can't see that could be really valuable to know about the site.

The data will be publically available.

7 EPBC Update

Mr Johnson invited Ms Amanda Fortanier to share an EPBC update. Ms Fortanier explained that ARWA have submitted a referral under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* to Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment and it has been returned with the guidance that the proposed action is controlled under the EPBC Act and therefore ARWA need an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). ARWA will need to procure the services to conduct the EIS once the requirements are known. The expected timeframe is 18 – 24 months.

The committee asked whether the work would be awarded to a public or private body. Mr Osborn and Ms Fortanier stated that it will be put out to tender and it would likely be only private bodies that would respond.

8 RCC Timeline

Mr Johnson invited Ms Jane Uptlen to provide the members with an update to the RCC Timeline. Ms Uptlen stated that the draft regulations that will set up the Regional Consultative Committee need to be considered by the new Minister, it is hoped that they can be discussed at the next KCC meeting but will keep you posted on that. Previously it has been spoken about the RCC being operational before the end of the year, but looking at the steps that are needed to be taken to establish a new committee it is now thought that it may not happen until mid-next year.

A key element of the process is that this is a new committee and the appointments are therefore considered a significant appointment and significant appointments require Prime Ministerial approval.

It is also required to seek the determination of the Review Tribunal which only meets every 6 weeks. ARWA are still hoping to have the regulations with you for consultation next month, but that is dependent on our new Minister who as you can imagine has a lot to process. Once the new Minister is happy for the consultation to progress ARWA will be consulting with you and the SA Government. Depending on when this happens we are hoping to have the nominations open this year.

Ms Uptlen explained that as all of the steps that are involved there will be a very long lag between when nominations are taken and when the committee is formally announced and becomes operational. Making certain that all are aware that there will be a large period where the committee won't hear anything, which means there is a lot of bureaucratic work happening behind the scenes.

Ms Uptlen invited members to ask questions around the process. A member raised the timeline for the nominations of members is scheduled for peak farming harvest is a very busy time and ARWA needs to be more aware of these impacts and for that to be taken into consideration. Discussion ensued regarding the RCC being the group making the decisions about Community Skills and Development package and if the Minister will be ultimate decider of grants.

Discussions continued around the Community Skills Development Program Grants and the way it will be discussed and decided. It was raised that the members spend a lot of time talking to members of the community regarding the grants and have discussed options about getting people involved in community consultation and stressed that people should have a say. Ms Uptlen responded that there were concerns also raised that this could lead to lobbying and that taking up more of the members' time, the grants are designed by grants specialists and are interested to hear how the members think it should occur.

Members raised ideas of having the ability to consult the community, does that include boards with information sheets provided by each applicant on their plan, or is a presentation from the applicants possible.

Ms Uptlen stated that moving forward to consider how the process can work, cannot create an expectation that the community are voting for projects, and only capturing views yes but not referendums. Ms Uptlen stated that she would go back to business grants hub and see what other parts of Australia do in regards to community grant programs.

Action Item	Details
KCC20220616/A02	ARWA to seek more information from relevant areas on what other grants do to incorporate the broader community

9 Grants Update

Ms Uptlen spoke to the members about the Round 3 Community Benefit Program Grants process stating that the applications are still in assessment and are currently still with Business Grants Hub and ARWA will work with them to provide a brief to the Minister.

Ms Uptlen stated that unfortunately the recent recruitment for an Economic Development Officer was unsuccessful as the person that was appointed withdrew before they were due to start. A RFQ is in market currently for an Economic Development Consultant to advise on the criteria for the CSDP grants and review the failed recruitments and see how that could be improved to have a better process and more likely to succeed in getting people ongoing in the future. It is a short term appointment and it is still the plan to have an ongoing focus on economic development. Points raised by the members were that a contractor is not the preferred option as there is a lot for them to get their head around in a short time frame.

10 Other Business

Mr Johnson called for any other items to be raised.

Mr Jim Haskett stated that the contractors that are coming through may be happy to talk with school groups or interested community members.

Members raised the question about the options of recordings of the KCC/RCC meetings for those who can't attend on the day. Mr Osborn and Ms Uptlen thanked the members for their ideas and will explore the option of recording or making recordings available.

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Action Item	Details
KCC20220616/A03	ARWA to explore option of potentially recording KCC meetings and making the recordings available to members.

The visitor information centre was raised and asking if the RDA-EP report of on tourism and a visitor centre was final and if it had been circulated. ARWA staff believe this report has been circulated to the members and will ensure it is circulated to the members. Members asked if a workshop can be held with the community to get the community's views. Mr Osborn stated that that is a good idea but ARWA aren't at that point yet for community input, are waiting for the Government to make the decision and to allocate resources. ARWA is in the stage of preparing options for the Government to consider.

Action Item	Details
KCC20220616/A04	ARWA to resend final RDA-EP to members

Mr Johnson stated that this is Ms Peta Willmott's final meeting, having tendered her resignation. Mr Johnson on behalf of the members thanked Ms Willmott for her engagement and contribution to the Kimba Consultative Committee and wished her well with future endeavours.

Meeting close

There being no further business, the Convener thanked the members for their attendance, participation and input, and the meeting closed at 12.30pm.