



Kimba Consultative Committee and Kimba Economic Working Group Meeting

Date: Thursday 28 July 2022
Time: 9:00am– 1.00pm (local time)
Location: ARWA office, 49 High Street, Kimba

MINUTES

KCC Deputy Convener: Dean Johnson

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	Sam Usher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Acknowledgement of CountrySafety ThoughtPersonal IntroductionVision for ARWAARWA general update
3. Grants update	Jane Uptlen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CBP Round 3 updateCSDP Status
4. Legal Update	Racheal Rea (VC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Update on Judicial Review and Constitutional Challenge
10:30am-10:50am Morning tea		
5. Indigenous Engagement	Ben Christensen (VC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Update on site cultural heritage
6. Our Town	Erin Lister	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Overview of Our Town presentation
7. KCC meeting frequency	Jane Uptlen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussion of KCC & KEWG meeting frequency
8. Other business	Dean Johnson	
12pm Lunch and Meeting Close		

OFFICIAL

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

Australian Radioactive Waste Agency

Staff attending:

- Sam Usher, CEO, ARWA
- David Osborn, General Manager, Safety and Technical
- Jane Uptlen, Manager, Communications & Engagement
- Elise Hearnshaw, EA, Safety and Technical
- Jim Haskett, Site Supervisor
- Deb Francis, Community Liaison Officer

Staff attending via VC:

- Rachael Rea, Senior Legal Counsel
- Ben Christensen, Indigenous Engagement
- Daniel Pond, Manager, Site and Design
- Jen Simpson, Manager, Radioactive Waste Policy

Our Town

Presenter attending:

- Erin Lister

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
KCC20220616/A01	Present / share more information about bore holes locations when this is further advanced	PENDING
KCC20220616/A03	ARWA to explore option of potentially recording KCC meetings and making the recordings available to members.	PENDING

New action items

Item number	Detail
KCC20220728/A01	ARWA to report back on whether Minister King has visited ANSTO's Lucas Heights operation.
KCC20220728/A02	ARWA to report back on how grants management issues will be handled under CBP Round 3 funding, specifically issues arising from the delay in funding being received.
KCC20220728/A03	ARWA to circulate 12 month meeting options for discussion at next meeting.

1 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The Deputy Convener opened the meeting at 9:00am (local time). The deputy convener announced that after the last KCC meeting 16 June Mr David Schmidt resigned from the KEWG committee, Mr Johnson extended the members thanks to Mr Schmidt for his efforts and input to the committee.

Mr Johnson outlined housekeeping arrangements and proposed breaks throughout the day. Members agreed to have photographs taken throughout the day. The Deputy Convener then invited Sam Usher to deliver an Acknowledgement of Country.

Mr Usher delivered an Acknowledgement of Country and thanked members for their continued engagement.

2 ARWA Update

ARWA Staff update

Mr Usher informed the members that he would like to introduce a safety thought to the meeting agenda as standard ARWA practice in meetings, and shared his safety thought regarding that ARWA's priority is safety, security and protection of the environment, just as working in a farming community that safety is paramount especially working with agricultural machinery.

Mr Usher provided a personal introduction of his nuclear background in the UK and abroad, with experience with radioactive waste, low, intermediate and high level wastes. He understood that the industry can invoke emotive and strong feelings, is complex and highly regulated, and that there are

no shortcuts in balancing technical, stakeholder, community, safety and policy issues. This means that patience is needed to progress.

Mr Usher shared with the members that he is honoured to be asked to work with the Australian Government, and he and his family have now moved to Adelaide. Mr Usher stated that the radioactive waste industry is a highly regulated industry and highlighted the importance of the community engagement and social licencing. Mr Usher explained that legislation is being progressed over the coming months for ARWA to become a non-corporate Commonwealth entity, a different kind of Government agency structure. Mr Usher explained that ARWA's remit is to provide a long term solution for low level waste and to develop further solutions for intermediate waste disposal . Mr Usher explained that part of the Australian Public Service is adhering to the Australian Governments code of conduct and that ensures that integrity and high standards are of the utmost importance to ARWA.

Mr Usher shared with members that he is looking forward to continuing to build connections and getting to know the people in the community further. Mr Usher stated that he recognised the process has been long and the frustration that this can bring. ARWA are looking to grow and part of that involves change of staff with people coming and going which is the reality of the business, ARWA are committed to the long term goal of being a partner in the Kimba community.

Committee member asked if the transition to NCE will that create more stability with staff. Mr Usher responded that part of the transition has been from Canberra to Adelaide which has meant a lot of staff change, and that ARWA is looking to grow which will mean more people and inevitably staff turn over. It is a long term program and ARWA recognises that this has been a long process so far, ARWA is committed to a long term partnership with Kimba and recognise that there will be challenges, ups and downs, difficult conversations and encourage frank and fearless conversations, understanding views and mindful not to overpromise. ARWA is not always the decision maker as that is the Government of the day, but ARWA will always look to work with people with good faith and integrity.

Mr Usher shared with the members that he had recently met with Minister King in Canberra where she reaffirmed the Governments commitment to the national facility and driving the program forward. The legal challenge by BDAC is part of the overall process . Committee member asked if Minister King has visited the site in ANSTO.

KCC20220728/A01	ARWA to report back on whether Minister King has visited ANSTO's Lucas Heights operation.
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Mr Usher shared that Minister King expressed that she is keen to visit with Barngarla people on country and to visit Kimba and the site.

Mr Usher asked Mr David Osborn to provide an update from the technical branch.

Mr Osborn shared with the members how happy ARWA are to have Mr Usher in Australia in person. Mr Osborn stated that an overview of planned site characterisation works was given at the last meeting, which included the recent aerial survey by helicopter completed at the beginning of July. ARWA have been working with the District Council of Kimba on a Request For Quote to design upgrades to Tola Road, and Mr Osborn invited Mrs Deb Larwood, CEO of Kimba Council, to provide an update to members.

Mrs Larwood stated that tenders closed for the first stage with the review to evaluate submissions to be held in Adelaide in mid August with Mrs Larwood, Mr Inglis from the Kimba council on the evaluation panel, with hopes of a contract by the end of the year.

Mr Osborn shared with the members that work on the proposed visitors centre is continuing with a number of options being examined. Mr Osborn explained that the Government is the decision maker, and ARWA is working with ANSTO & other contractors to progress.

3 Grants Update

Community Benefits Program

Mr Johnson invited Ms Jane Uptlen to provide the members with a grants update. Ms Uptlen stated that during the election campaign there was a commitment made to audit spending commitments made by the previous Government and the Community Benefits Program Round 3 funding is included in that audit. There are no timeframes available to say when the funding will be made available. Ms Uptlen recognised the difficulty this delay will bring to applicants and opened the floor for concerns to be raised. Ms Uptlen stated members are welcome to write letters to the Minister to highlight the ongoing difficulties this will bring.

Members raised their concerns over another delay which could devalue the projects through inflation, and increase the difficulties of successfully completing the project. Members stated that many applications will not be able to meet the quotes from the beginning of the year and some projects may no longer be able to progress. A question was asked if all projects that have been applied for could be resubmitted with updated costings and outcomes. Another question was asked if the overall funding amount could be increased to match inflation. A further question was asked if there was scope for the projects no longer going ahead to be reallocated to top up the other projects requiring more funds rather than going to the waitlisted projects.

KCC20220728/A02	ARWA to report back on how grants management issues will be handled under CBP Round 3 funding, specifically issues arising from the delay in funding being received.
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Community Skills and Development Program

Ms Uptlen explained to the members that the Community Skills and Development Package is also included in the audit however ARWA is still hoping to progress the design. Ms Uptlen shared that she is currently speaking with the grant design team and hopes to have a representative come to a KCC meeting to speak to the members regarding the design of the grant program. Ms Uptlen stated she is aware from the previous KCC that members are interested in learning about options for greater community awareness of applications and assessment.

A member raised that the CBP should be completed before the CSDP is started and Ms Uptlen stated that the design and implementation of the CSDP Guidelines will take months.

4 Legal Update

Mr Johnson invited Ms Rachael Rea to provide an update from the Legal team. Ms Rea explained that at the last meeting ARWA were preparing for the upcoming case management hearings in the constitutional and judicial review matters. This was delayed until August 2022 due to counsel availability and an update on these hearing will be given at the next meeting.

A committee member asked a clarifying question about the constitutional challenge and Ms Rea explained that the constitutional matter differs from the judicial review in that it examines whether the Government had the power under the constitution to make the law the declaration was made under, whereas the judicial review examines the making of the declaration.

5 Communications & Engagement

Ms Uptlen asked the members for feedback on the types of engagement and consultation methods that have been used throughout the process so far and what worked and what didn't.

Comments from members included:

- Face to face engagement is vitally important.
- Utilise variety of mediums for community consultation including Q&A sessions with industry experts, community meetings, but also information to take away so that people who are time poor and unable to attend forums have access to the same information
- Drop in function of Kimba office has been useful for people who are time poor and/or are unlikely to speak up in a group setting. It allows people to ask questions when they think of them.
- Kimba community participation has been high as it has been a long process thus far and the people are highly engaged and invested. Because the Facility will have a big impact on the community, this has meant higher engagement.
- Keeping people consistent is really important, the same people coming through the community builds trust.
- For those who do not support the Facility they have felt they have been facing an uphill struggle as they have to make their case from scratch each time with every new person and event, whereas those who support the Facility have information and experts provided by Government. A general feeling of Government doing more for those who support the Facility than those who don't.
- Those who oppose the Facility feel like there is a greater emotional toll on them, than on those who support the Facility.
- People coming from metro areas to undertake engagement activities often don't understand the particular issues that come from living rurally.

6 Indigenous Engagement

Mr Johnson invited Mr Ben Christensen to provide an update from the Indigenous Engagement team. Mr Christensen shared with members that cultural heritage work is progressing, including drafting of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for site characterisation works.

A member asked a question on the comparison between ARWA's cultural heritage assessment and BDAC's cultural heritage assessment and when they are brought together what happens to differing opinions. Mr Christensen responded that a cultural heritage assessment report has been received from BDAC and that there were no significant gaps identified, and nothing that ARWA was planning to disagree with. These reports will inform the site characterisation Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

7 Our Town

Mr Johnson welcomed Ms Erin Lister to the meeting and invited her to present an overview of Our Town Kimba to the ARWA staff and KCC members.

Ms Lister provided members with the history of Our Town, which ran as a Kimba mental health group for 18 months, then in 2019 won funding through Our Town, a mental health initiative funded by the Fay Fuller organisation.

The first stage included receiving funding to find out what causes were there in the community that cause people to fall into poor mental health. At the end of 2020 the group was awarded \$3 million for 10 years. Kimba was one of 3 Eyre Peninsula successful applicants with Ceduna and Cummins also receiving funding. Kangaroo Island were award the funding without an application due to the fires and their need for support.

Ms Lister shared with members the Our Town Kimba plan that was created from input from the community including helping the community to work through some of the issues and concerns arising from the decision to build the radioactive waste management facility in Kimba.

Our Town is has a building with community space and offices open 4 days a week with 6 employees. Ms Lister shared just some of the activities and programs they are involved in, including the Youth Group, Reconciliation week, directory of services and community groups available to help people on their mental health journey, 8 ball league which brought a diverse group of people together, crochet group, assisting the Football club and the pub to introduce alcohol free drinks, and a confidence program for youth.

8 Other Business

Mr Johnson called for any other items to be raised.

Meeting Frequency

Ms Uptlen introduced a discussion around the KCC meeting frequency to ensure efficiency and relevance and asking the best times to have meetings.

Discussion ensued with a consensus to have them less often with more subjects to discuss. Timing is important – avoid January, seeding May and June, and harvest October to mid December.

KCC20220728/A03	ARWA to circulate 12 month meeting options for discussion at next meeting
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Members shared face to face meetings are preferred with VC recording preferred if meeting is missed. Ms Uptlen stated that meetings are not currently recorded, but an action item is with them to come back about whether this is feasible.

Members shared that workshops are worthwhile but only if necessary.

Mr Usher shared that regular meetings are important for building ARWA’s relationships with the community even if there’s no “meaty” topics for discussion.

Members shared they are happy with shorter meetings rather than filling the time for the sake of it and to trial different timing for the meetings going forward. A point was raised to vary meetings times from just the morning to afternoons and potentially evenings to allow those with different work schedules to attend.

A concern was raised about minutes not accurately reflecting discussions and ARWA stated that under the Committee Guidelines the minutes are not to be a verbatim record of discussion, but to record issues raised and action items to be undertaken.

Military waste

A member asked if the waste from the proposed submarines would be coming to Kimba.

Mr Usher explained that the Department of Defence is looking at a range of options and scenarios and that no decisions have been made by government. ARWA have representation on the relevant Taskforce with a seconded staff member from the policy team. Mr Usher reiterated that any waste that comes to the Facility at Kimba would need to meet waste acceptance criteria. He reaffirmed to members that no high level waste will come to the facility.

Meeting close

There being no further business, the Convener thanked the members for their attendance, participation and input, and the meeting closed at 12.00pm