



Kimba Consultative Committee and Kimba Economic Working Group Meeting

Date: Thursday 18 November 2021

Time: 9:10am–11.45am (local time)

Location: Kimba Gateway Hotel, 40 High Street, Kimba

MINUTES

KCC Independent Convener: Allan Suter

KCC Deputy Convener: Dean Johnson (apology)

KEWG Chair: David Schmidt

Item	Lead	Key points
1. Welcome	Allan Suter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housekeeping
2. ARWA update	David Osborn + Kirsty Braybon + Amelia Yaron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgement of Country Intention to declare (Kirsty Braybon) Staffing and recruitment Cultural heritage assessment (Amelia Yaron) Community Benefit Program Regional Consultative Committee NCE Transition ARPANSA consultation
3. Survey results	Jon Shatwell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malleefowl survey Road verge survey
4. Visitor Information Centre	David Osborn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further discussions
5. Agricultural Research and Development Zone	David Osborn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further discussions
6. Other business	Allan Suter	-

Committee Member	Attendance
Allan Suter (Convener)	Accepted
Dean Johnson (Deputy Convener)	Apology

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

Australian Radioactive Waste Agency

Staff attending:

- David Osborn, General Manager, Safety and Technical
- Kirsty Braybon, Principal Legal Counsel
- Megan Rusk, Media Officer, Community Engagement
- Jim Haskett, Site Supervisor
- Deb Francis, Community Liaison Officer

Staff attending via VC:

- Jodie McAlister, General Manager, Governance and Policy
- Jon Shatwell, Manager, Waste Management Function
- Amelia Yaron, Assistant Manager, Indigenous Engagement
- Clare Butterfield, Assistant Manager, Community Engagement

Outstanding action items

Item number	Detail	Status
KCC20210826/A02	Provide detailed radionuclide descriptions for the ILW coming to Kimba	PENDING
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	Status
KCC20211118/A01	Provide updated organisation chart for Kimba positions	PENDING
KCC20211118/A02	Provide a draft copy of the NCE legislation bill to the KCC	PENDING
KCC20211118/A03	Circulate the ARPANSA comment link to members	COMPLETE
KCC20211118/A04	Circulate finalised RDA-EP visitor information centre report	PENDING
KCC20211118/A05	KCC & ARWA to invite Department of Transport to a KCC meeting to impress the need to know where the road diversion will be	PENDING
KCC20211118/A06	Circulate anticipated dates for next year's meetings	PENDING

1 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The Convener opened the meeting at 9:10am (local time). The Convener outlined housekeeping arrangements and proposed breaks throughout the day. Members agreed to have photographs taken.

Mr Osborn acknowledged the Barnjarla People as the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting was being held. He thanked members for their continued engagement and introduced colleagues Jodie McAlister, Jon Shatwell, Amelia Yaron, and Clare Butterfield joining the meeting via Skype, and the ARWA team members in the room Kirsty Braybon, Megan Rusk, Jim Haskett, and Deb Francis.

2 ARWA Update

Intention to declare

Ms Kirsty Braybon updated the committee on the intention to declare a site for the facility. Ms Braybon reminded the room that the Minister announced his intention to declare part of the land at Napandee as the site for the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility, and invited comments from people with a right or interest in the land by 29 October.

29 submissions were received and they have been provided to the Minister. He is reviewing the comments and we are waiting to see whether he will continue with his declaration of part of the land at Napandee, or not.

Staffing & recruitment update

Mr Osborn advised that some of the new members of the Technical Branch had recently travelled to Kimba and attended a range of meetings, and they look forward to more visits to Kimba. Mr Osborn also looks forward to bringing more team members to Kimba.

Mr Osborn announced the recruitment of the new CEO, Mr Sam Usher. Mr Usher will be based in the Adelaide office and hopes to visit Kimba early in 2022.

Mr Usher brings to ARWA 28 years of experience in radioactive waste management and leadership. Including 4 years as Project Director – Waste at Dounreay Site Restoration Limited, 3 years as Senior Vice President at Studsvik; and 7 years as Director at UK Nuclear Waste Management Limited.

Mr Osborn advised that several more positions have recently been advertised for roles within ARWA, in the technical, governance, and administration space.

A member asked about the number of roles coming to Kimba. Mr Osborn advised that at this stage the Kimba office team will not be expanding significantly, and that it is the construction phase that will require the most jobs in Kimba. When operational, the facility will employ up to 45 people. Mr Osborn undertook to provide an updated document with expected positions in Kimba.

Action item	Details
KCC20211118/A01	Provide updated organisation chart for Kimba positions

Ms Braybon clarified that the organisational chart is an evolving document, and there is one for the Adelaide-based staff and a separate one for the facility.

Cultural Heritage Assessment

Mr Osborn invited Ms Amelia Yaron to present an update on the Cultural Heritage Assessment process. Ms Yaron advised that consultation and engagement on the cultural heritage assessment will commence in the new year (dependent on site declaration), and that a group of experts have been engaged to manage the project.

People with relevant cultural knowledge will be invited to register their interest in, and willingness to, share this knowledge.

Ms Yaron noted that the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) that will be created after the Cultural Heritage Assessment will not be static, and will be adapted as knowledge is gained. The Indigenous Engagement Team at ARWA are developing three pieces of work to inform CHMP:

- A Cultural Heritage Assessment Plan
- A communications and engagement plan
- A desktop research report.

Ms Yaron advised that cultural awareness training for ARWA staff has commenced, and will continue throughout the project.

She also advised that the Indigenous Engagement team will be holding information sessions for Aboriginal stakeholders in the coming month, which again is dependent on declaration of a site. These sessions will give Aboriginal stakeholders a chance to hear more information about the project, and ask questions of the team.

Questions were raised around the process for people to register their interest in sharing knowledge, and how that information be shared with the wider community. Ms Yaron advised that as it is shared in confidence, it is not intended to be shared with a wider audience. However, AECOM will be running the process and have thorough processes in place to ensure all people who have relevant knowledge to share will be able to register to do so. In particular, the call to share information will

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be made via newspaper adverts, and engaging directly with Aboriginal corporations, providing a telephone number to call and an email address for people to contact.

Community Benefit Program

Mr Osborn invited Ms Clare Butterfield to provide an update of the Community Benefit Program. Ms Butterfield advised that applications for Round 3 of the Community Benefit Program will open on 9 December 2021, and will close early in February. She acknowledged that it is a difficult time of the year to be doing applications, and as a result the guidelines have been released on the business.gov.au website already to give people a chance to start gathering the required information ahead of the applications opening.

Ms Butterfield noted that an assessment workshop, at which the committee will have a chance to discuss the applications, as with previous rounds, will likely be held by 1 April 2022.

Ms Butterfield reminded members that the Minister will be the decision maker this round but the department, through Business Grants Hub and in consultation with the KCC will provide advice to assist in his decision making.

Ms Butterfield explained that Business Grants Hub expect the grant agreements to be in place and initial payments finalised by mid-June 2022. She also noted that as is normal practice for multi-round grant programs, previously unsuccessful applicants are welcome to submit a new applications for the same or similar project, but are encouraged to update relevant information and address any weaknesses identified in the previous application.

A member noted that it is disappointing timing for the CBP yet again, as it is hard to get quotes at this time of year.

Regional Consultative Committee

Ms Butterfield advised that ARWA expects to be in a position to consult with the committee on draft regulations for the Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) shortly, and there are a number of steps involved in setting up the committee, including making regulations and appointing the members and the chair.

The standing up of the RCC can only progress after the Minister has made a declaration to acquire the site for the facility, should he do so. This means that ARWA will have regulations finalised for the KCC members' comments and feedback out of session. Ms Butterfield reiterated that ARWA appreciates this is a busy time of year for members, and will provide as much time as possible for members to consider and provide comments on the regulations.

The regulations are expected to be considered by ARWA's Executive Council in February 2022. This means they may be able to be discussed with members when members meet with ARWA's new CEO, Mr Usher, early in 2022.

ARWA staff will also be available to answer any queries members might have while they are considering the draft regulations.

A member noted that given the RCC will be a select group from across the region, should a subcommittee that reports to the RCC be created so that there is inside knowledge of the town and

community? Ms Jodie McAlister, General Manager – Governance and Policy, advised the current understanding is the RCC will have members of the Kimba community as well as other members regionally, but that could be something to reassess when the RCC is stood up.

Update on NCE transition

Ms Braybon told members that further to the update on ARWA’s transition to becoming a non-corporate Commonwealth entity, from the last meeting, legislation that sets out the structure, rules, powers and the role of the CEO for ARWA, is now progressing towards introduction to Parliament. It is expected the draft bill will be introduced in the Autumn 2022 sitting.

Ms Braybon advised that before this introduction, ARWA will be sharing a draft of the bill with members for review. Again, this will again be out of session, but staff will be available during this time and to answer questions and discuss as needed through January and February.

Action item	Details
KCC20211118/A02	Provide a draft copy of the NCE legislation bill to the KCC

ARPANSA public consultation

Mr Osborn advised that ARPANSA is engaging in a public consultation on the Draft Advisory note: *Public health and well-being considerations for siting, construction and operation of a radioactive waste disposal facility*.

This note provides an explanation of health and well-being as referred to in ARPANSA’s Code for Disposal Facilities for Solid Radioactive Waste. It is intended to provide guidance on ARPANSA’s expectations for consideration of community well-being throughout the siting, construction and operation of a radioactive waste disposal facility.

Mr Osborn explained that if any members want to make a comment they can do so via the ARPANSA website at <https://www.arpansa.gov.au/advisory-note-public-health-considerations-siting-construction-and-operation-radioactive-waste> and that comments close on Wednesday 15 December 2021 at 5pm.

Action item	Details
KCC20211118/A03	Circulate the ARPANSA comment link to members

3 Survey results

Malleefowl survey

Mr Jon Shatwell provided an update of recent surveys that have been undertaken. He reported the early site characterisation work in 2016-17 by AECOM, that included scoping work for an EPBC Act referral for the site, had indicated certain species and habitats of potential conservation value on-site and off-site. This had included the possibility of Malleefowl, an endangered bird. Mr Shatwell explained that early LIDAR aerial survey work was undertaken across the nominated site and surrounds indicated land forms which could be Malleefowl nests.

The Malleefowl build large earth mounds for their nests, which are only used by the birds during the spring breeding season, and only when suitable breeding conditions arise. It was not known if there were any Malleefowl living near to the site, and there was speculation that it was unlikely.

A spring breeding survey was undertaken with a team including John Read in October, taking advantage of the good conditions for breeding. The results showed that there were potentially 4

sites in use this year, with the closest being 1.7km to the south-west of the southern site boundary and within the Pinkawillinie Conservation Park. Motion activated cameras were placed near to the sites and confirmed the 4 sites were in use.

Mr Shatwell described the excitement of the ARWA team, that it is great information, and encouraging that there is suitable habitat and a Malleefowl population. The information about the presence and location will be included in the EPBC application for the facility.

ARWA will also seek to ensure that future NRWMF development and actions do not impact on the Malleefowl habitat or population, and also will become involved with existing groups in the positive management of this species.

Members raised the question regarding baiting for foxes and managing other invasive species. Mr Osborn advised that this is the early days of exploring what management measurements are available. Bushfires often pose the most significant risk to Malleefowl populations and mitigation such as mosaic controlled burns could reduce the risk from fire. Other options include looking at potential fox and cat mitigation measures.

Mr Shatwell stated that ARWA are willing to work with others to put together a program to protect the Malleefowl, and that ARWA wants to help the carrying capacity of Pinkawillinie Conservation Park.

Roadside verge survey

Mr Shatwell reported to members that ARWA contractors undertook a desktop assessment plus an on the ground initial ecological assessment of the roadside verges along the three potential access routes to the site from the Eyre Highway. Access and other enabling (services) work would follow the same overall route.

This looked at the species of plants and animals, and the habitats and what could be at risk. These early stage, but robust surveys indicated a few species to be aware of, but nothing to prevent further work and planning. The information would also be included in the EPBC application. The Tola Road route had the least impact in terms of potential verge side habitat impact.

A member asked about access to services that will run along the Tola Road. Mr Osborn advised that utilities are expected to be done at the same time as the road upgrade, and access to those services still needs to be discussed further.

4 Visitor Information Centre

Further discussion

Mr Osborn reminded members that ARWA is not at a point of making any decisions about the type or location of a visitor information centre (VIC), and these discussions are thought gathering opportunities.

Discussions ensued, with questions about CBP funding assisting with a VIC, whether ARWA would move from its current office, and why an ARWA office would need to be part of the VIC.

Mr Osborn advised that ARWA had not envisioned funding to come from the CBP and in terms of broader funding, this committee can't speak for the District Council of Kimba. If the centre ended up as a partnership, there would still be many steps to go through.

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Mr Osborn also advised that ARWA intends to stay in its current Kimba office for now, however ARWA is only a tenant in the building, not the building owner. The building owner is under no obligation to keep ARWA as tenants once the lease expires.

The highway diversion was raised, with particular reference to the gums area, which was mentioned as a potential VIC site at the last meeting.

It was suggested that the Department of Transport should be invited to a KCC meeting to impress on them the need to know where the road diversion will be, to assist in making decisions regarding the VIC.

A member suggested that the old Mooses metalworks site could be an ideal location for a VIC, and is visible from the highway.

The RDA-EP report into the VIC was raised, with a member noting that Kimba would benefit from having a VIC in town no matter what. Members indicated that they are interested in seeing the final version of the RDA-EP report.

Ms Butterfield responded that ARWA are waiting for the final copy, but will distribute to members when it is complete.

Action item	Details
KCC20211118/A04	Send out finalised RDA-EP visitor information centre report
KCC20211118/A05	KCC & ARWA to invite Department of Transport to a KCC meeting to impress the need to know where the road diversion will be

Members advised they have been speaking to local members of the Kimba community, and the feedback has been that it would be good to have a joint project between ARWA and the Council, off the highway and in town. Members noted this could be a positive way to interact, and asked if a planning or workshop day could be held regarding options for the VIC. Mr Osborn advised that if there is broad interest from the KCC members to do so, it may be able to happen after a KCC meeting, however the final decision on the VIC will be the government's to make.

5 Agriculture Research and Development Zone

Further discussion

Mr Osborn spoke to members about an Agricultural Roundtable event that may be held in March 2022, and invited members to provide suggestions for who should be invited.

Discussion followed and suggestions included were Buckleboo Farm Improvement Group, Eyre EP, agricultural research organisations, SAGIT, SARDI, GPSA, GRDC, Livestock Producers SA, Grain Growers Ltd, and University of Adelaide. It was also suggested that local agricultural suppliers should be included.

There was much discussion amongst the committee about environmental monitoring that will be happening at the facility, educational opportunities, and site access. Mr Osborn reminded the committee that as shown through the conceptual design at the last meeting, as you move out of the operational waste area, the security levels reduce, and the front access for the research and development zone will have a relatively low security level, that won't require a special level of access or protection.

Mr Shatwell also advised that this research and development zone could be an opportunity to look at climate change impacts on agriculture.

6 Other business

A member, on behalf of the Kimba Area School, acknowledged ARWA for its financial support for the STEM program, and donation of Barngarla language books. The support is appreciated and the school hopes it will continue into the future. The school has introduced an agricultural studies unit in years 6, 7 and 8, and it is hoped they could tap into the research and development zone in some way.

A member asked why ILW won't stay at ANSTO, given that recently a public works committee inquiry found there was space. The member wanted to know whether it is a political decision rather than a radiological necessity to move it to Kimba? Mr Osborn reiterated that it is government policy to build a facility for the disposal of LLW and temporary storage of ILW, and as a government agency ARWA has to work to implement government policy.

A member asked where the update to the social impacts of the facility aspect of the University of Queensland's report is up to. Ms Butterfield advised that it is still on the agenda, and ARWA will liaise further with UQ on this.

Members requested 2022 meeting dates. Ms Butterfield advised that a full year schedule is being finalised, which will run until the RCC is in place.

Action item	Details
KCC20211118/A06	Circulate dates for next year's meetings

Meeting close

There being no further business, the Convener thanked members for their attendance, participation and input, and the meeting closed at 11.45am (local time).