

Gloucester Exploration Project COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date:	1 st February 2019	10:00 am
Venue:	Gloucester Arts Centre	
Members:	Independent Chairperson: Community Representatives: DRG Representative: GRL Representatives: Stakeholder Groups: Independent Minute Secretary:	Lisa Andrews (LA) Ray Dawes (RD), Steve Robinson (SR) and Trevor Sansom (TS) Emma Prince (EP) Brian Clifford (BC) and Bob Corbett (RC) Advance Gloucester (Bill Williams – BW) Gloucester Business Chamber (Stuart Redman – StR) Suella Hannaford.
Apologies:	Anthony Berecny and Cr Claire Pontin (MidCoast Council)	
Non-attendance:	Nil.	

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- 1. Opening of Meeting** LA declared meeting open at 10.02 am and welcomed all members to the first meeting for 2019.
- The Chair asked each member to complete the attendance sheet and make any relevant changes to their contact details.
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- 2. Apologies** Anthony Berecny & Cr Claire Pontin
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- 3. Declarations** LA declared that she is an Independent Chairperson, appointed by the Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy to chair this committee.
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- 4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes** Previous minutes of 7th December 2018 were accepted:
- Moved: SR Seconded: RD*

5. Business Arising **ACTION ITEM**

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Provide location map of recent surface mapping around Berrico Rd. (Complete - RC advised that the map has been uploaded to the website.)	RC
2	Provide link to EPA dust data (complete - see below)	RC

Item 2:

As requested at the meeting, members may obtain daily air quality information by subscribing at: <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/aqms/subscribe.htm> or alternatively; doing a web search on “subscribe to air quality updates”. (This is an OEH website.)

BC advised that the letter* (see correspondence 30/1/19) that RD had received from a member of the community from the Leader of the Opposition, Michael Daley was nothing of concern to GRL. RD advised of further information he had received regarding the Upper

Hunter Air Quality results from the EPA and the Labor party questioning their accuracy. He advised that the Labor party have stated that a review would be undertaken, especially in relation to the positions of dust monitors. *Post Script: RD provided the chair with a link to this article, which was the subject of these discussions:*

<https://www.smh.com.au/environment/sustainability/blue-in-the-face-nsw-power-plants-in-labor-s-electoral-sights-20190130-p50umm.html>

BW asked RD who had sent him the letter from the Opposition Leader. RD advised that it had been sent to Martin Rush (previous candidate for Labor in the Upper Hunter seat) who he understood, provided a copy to Groundswell Gloucester and the Knitting Nannas members at a recent forum. RD was not present at this forum. The person who emailed a copy of the letter to RD, requested to remain anonymous. (It was noted that Martin Rush is no longer the Labor candidate for the Upper Hunter seat due to stepping down, following an alleged violence incident.)

RD enquired about the location of the dust monitors with RC advising that reliable scientific equipment that complies with Australian Standards is only used by qualified consultants to collect data. Further, that there is a large data base as extensive monitoring has been undertaken over the last 6-8 years. RC stated that there are often disputes on the accuracy of dust monitoring results. RC reiterated the advice provided at the previous meeting that the reason for the higher levels of monitoring in December was due to regional dust storms.

TS sought information on the locations of GRL's air quality monitors and was directed to the plan distributed with each set of results. TR then questioned the locations of the monitors in view of what he considered were the dominant wind directions. RC explained that the HV and TEOM monitors were positioned on the advice of air quality consultants and all monitors were installed to provide background information only to be used in the air quality modelling for the EIS. RC also advised that a review of monitor locations would be undertaken should approval of the project be granted and the positions of the monitors agreed by the authorities as appropriate to monitor impacts.

SR suggested that there should be a monitor in the Gloucester township. RC explained that GRL's primary aim would be compliance with the air quality limits imposed by any approval/licence and that if the monitors' results show that there is compliance around the site, then there will be no issues in town, ie if projects can demonstrate that they are compliant close to the mine, then they would be compliant outside the area. SR raised concern with air particles being carried by wind, similar to steam/dust from power station stacks. RC advised that whilst not an atmospheric specialist, the range of meteorological conditions had been built into the mode used to generate the results presented in the EIS. RC explained the process for attended dust monitoring requirements, TEOMS, the measuring of PM 2.5 & PM 10, wind direction, etc. It was acknowledged by GRL that should approval be granted for the Rocky Hill mine then additional monitors may be required in the Forbesdale area, etc.

RD then questioned the ability to identify the specific sources of particulates. RC advised that he did not know to what level of details such information would potentially be available but recalled that the CSIRO had carried out testing in the Hunter Valley and found that the greatest contributor to the fine particulates was sea salt. BW raised the

potential for air quality impacts/concerns from other emissions e.g., trains, farming practices, trucks, wood burning heaters, etc.

RD enquired whether baseline noise data collection had undertaken in Gloucester. RC advised that there was one or two carried out at the south end of town. *Note: A review of the Rocky Hill EIS subsequent to the meeting, identified 4 background sites in the Gloucester residential area - Clement Street (south end), Woodward Street (north end, near the Philip Street/Barrington Street intersection and near the Queen Street /Ravenshaw Street intersection.*

RD asked why Justice Preston was applying the new industrial noise policy (correctly known as The Noise Policy for Industry), when the proposed mine is located in a rural area. BC explained that the proposed mine is classified as an industrial activity and one to which the policy applies. RC noted that due to the amendment of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) relating to noise and air impacts and their applicability to development applications that had not yet been determined, Justice Preston was legally required to take into consideration the amendments. BC and RC also noted that GRL had already recognized the possibility of amended noise and air quality limits or assessment criteria being coming into force or being raised in the determination process and had designed the Project and/or undertaken assessments to verify that there would be no adverse change in impact if that were to happen. This was verified in the response provided to the Court at the request of Justice Preston.

6. Correspondence As sent with the meeting notice on 18/1/19 with three additional items:

- 17/12/18 - Email to members with the draft minutes from the CCC meeting held on 7/12/18 for review
 - 23/12/18 – Email from Anthony Berecny with some proposed amendments to “Land Management” and comments regarding the fire. These were incorporated into the final draft.
 - 24/12/18 – Email to members with the final draft.
 - 18/1/19 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice, correspondence report and agenda for this meeting
 - 22/1/19 – Email to members with the [Dust Monitoring results for December 2018](#).
 - 30/1/19 – Email from Ray Dawes, forwarding on letter from Michael Daley to Martin Rush regarding the proposed Rocky Hill Mine.*
 - 30/1/19 – Email from Minister Don Harwin reappointing community representatives for another 2 year term.
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7. Project Update **Exploration Licence**

GRL

RC advised that there has been no further news on the application for part cancellation of Exploration Licence EL6523. EP informed the CCC that the paperwork has been placed on the decision maker’s desk and was expecting a determination presently.

Exploration Drilling

Application was lodged on 19/12/18 and the activity approval was received on 30/1/19. GRL is unsure of when the activity is likely to commence as other documentation has to be submitted and approved prior to commencing drilling. RC advised that GRL plan to

engage the same drilling contractor they have used since 2011 as they have proven to be environmentally and socially responsible. Notification of relevant stakeholders will need to be undertaken prior to commencement. The activities are considered unlikely to commence prior to March.

Land Management

No issues with land management, which predominately is carried out by Chris Maslen as the major lease holder.

Rocky Hill

The Land & Environment Court resumed sitting on 29th January 2019 after standing down at the close of business 14th December 2018. There has been no information forthcoming as to a date or timeframe for the decision being handed down.

Dust Monitoring

The results provided show the effect of the regional dust storm on 23rd & 23rd November 2018. No other levels above the criteria were recorded in November or December.

A problem has arisen with the South TEOM necessitating its removal from the field for repair. Accordingly, there will be not results forthcoming until it has been fixed and repositioned.

Venue

RC confirmed that the School of Arts building has been booked for the all the meetings to be held in 2019.

8. General Business

BW advised that Mr Jock Laurie, NSW Land and Water Commissioner will be the Speaker for Advance Gloucester Meeting to be held at The Gloucester Bowling Club on 20th February, 2019 at 7.30 pm.

SR asked if irrigation was still occurring in the Gloucester River and Barrington River. BW advised that Gloucester River is on and off with TS advising that there are likely to be restrictions placed on Barrington River in the next two weeks.

StR raised the issue of the Gloucester Airstrip, GRL's plans for its realignment and discussion about its future use at previous CCC meetings, asking GRL if it would consider extending the runway so that it could be used by firefighting aircraft. StR advised that RFS are using more aircraft for firefighting and there is a want to establish an air base somewhere other than the commercial base in Taree, due to emergency services having to compete with commercial activities. BC advised that GRL would have no objections to looking at the possibility. RC reiterated that GRL had previously committed to look at this proposal.

TS mentioned Giant Parramatta Grass but was advised that Chris Maslen has this under control. RC confirmed that if there are any sightings of the weed on GRL land then please provide this information and it will be addressed. TS advised that a new weed, "tea tree weed" has been located along the Barrington River. MidCoast Council will be advising

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local property owners of this as it is appearing in the backwaters of the river and their control activities.

RC advised that Office of Water had made an initial approach about putting a further monitoring bore (350m deep) on GRL's land on Fairbairns Road. Based on advice to date, the bore would be adjacent to another bore installed on the same property [in 2015].

BW informed the committee that the Gloucester Show will be held on 5th & 6th April, 2019.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.05 am with the chair thanking CCC members for their attendance. BC advised that he will be an apology for the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: 5th April 2019

ACTION ITEMS - NIL