



Australian Government  
Department of Industry,  
Innovation and Science

# National Radioactive Waste Management Facility

## Barndioota Consultative Committee

Meeting Notes

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

## Agenda

| Item                          | Topic  | Lead   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 1                             | Welcome to country   | Aaron Stuart                                 |
| 2                             | Housekeeping   | Paul Thomas                                  |
| 3                             | Overview of the meeting agenda   | Paul Thomas                                  |
| 4                             | Other items  | Paul Thomas                                  |
| 5                             | Project update   | DIIS   |
| 6                             | Safety Case Overview   | Fraser Nash Consultancy - Jonathan Armstrong |
| Morning Tea                   |  |  |
| 7                             | Design and functionality requirements of the Facility, including infrastructure requirements | WSP: Parsons Brinckerhoff - Carl Jenkins     |
| Lunch Break                   |  |  |
| 8                             | What is the Detailed Business Case   | DIIS – Terry Marshman                        |
| 9                             | Economic Development Working Group   | DIIS – Alex Baxter                           |
| 10                            | Other items  | Paul Thomas                                  |
| Afternoon Tea / Meeting Close |  |  |

### Attendees:

|                              |                |                  |
|------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Paul Thomas (Convener)       | Ronald Daniel  | John Hennessy    |
| Greg Flint (Deputy Convener) | Aaron Stuart   | David Michael    |
| Susan Andersson              | Ashley Haywood | Jon Gill         |
| Dianne Ashton                | Janice McInnis | Denise Carpenter |
| Cecilia Woolford             |                |                  |

### Apologies

|                  |                 |              |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Michael Anderson | John Rowe       | Philip Fels  |
| Steven Taylor    | Julia Henderson | Rachel Vella |

### Other Attendees:

| Name       | Organisation   |
|------------|--|
| Angus Cole | DIIS NRWFM Project Team – Manager of Community Consultation Team |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Alex Baxter        | DIIS: NRWMF Project Team - Community Consultation Team   |
| Michelle Pereira   | DIIS: NRWMF Project Team - Community Consultation Team   |
| Rebecca Mouthaan   | DIIS: NRWMF Project Team - Community Consultation Team   |
| Jessica Chen       | DIIS: NRWMF Project Team - Community Consultation Team   |
| Hefin Griffiths    | ANSTO – Head of Nuclear Services & Chief Nuclear Officer |
| Jonathan Armstrong | Frazer-Nash Consultancy                                  |
| Carl Jenkins       | WSP: Parsons Brinckerhoff                                |

## Action Items

| Item   | Status |
|--|--------|
| 1. The Project Team agreed to distribute meeting 'notes' rather than 'minutes' and to provide time in every meeting agenda to approve these notes.                             |        |
| 2. Future BCC meeting agendas will include an update on the working group's activities and decisions.  |        |
| 3. The Committee will decide on their nominations for the working group, out of session, after the Project Team advertises expressions of interest online and in local papers. |        |

*Meeting opened 10:30am*

## Welcome to Country

- Aaron Stuart gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

## Housekeeping

The Chair noted six Barndioota Consultative Committee ('the Committee') member apologies, as listed in the Final Agenda.

## Overview of the meeting agenda

The Chair outlined that guest speakers will present on the Safety Case, design functionality requirements and the Detailed Business Case. This will be followed by time for discussion on each topic.

## Other Items

- The Committee agreed to meet next on Tuesday 27 June 2017, 9:30 AM.
- The Chair requested Committee members submit their invoices, and any trip arrangements to ANSTO's facility in Lucas Heights, to the Project Team (via Michelle Pereira) before the end of financial year.
- A Committee member raised the issue of meeting minutes. The Project team agreed to changes as in Action Item 1.
- The Chair confirmed that Committee members can contact the Project Team prior to meetings to arrange any additional agenda items. Alternatively, any additional topics can be raised during the permanent agenda titled 'Other Items'.
- A Committee member asked about departmental presence in Hawker once the Facility is in operation. The Facility will have an ongoing community engagement function.

**Action Item 1:** The Project Team agreed to distribute meeting 'notes' rather than 'minutes' and to provide time in every meeting agenda to approve these notes.

## Project Update

Alex Baxter (DIIS Project Team, Community Engagement) provided the Committee with an update on the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF) project.

### *Kimba Community Consultations*

- As of 24 April, week 6 of community consultations in Kimba commenced. Consultations will conclude on 21 June 2017. Project Team officers are available for consultations in Kimba two days a week, with a range of experts accompanying the team regularly.
- In response to a question posed by a Committee member, the Project Team confirmed the Kimba site nominations were submitted under updated nomination guidelines. These guidelines encourage nominators to speak to neighbours and the surrounding community before submitting their nomination. There is no requirement for neighbour support. The current guidelines are available online at [www.radioactivewaste.gov.au](http://www.radioactivewaste.gov.au).

- The department (Department of Industry, Innovation and Science) is supporting the Kimba District Council in arranging a community vote with the Australian Electoral Commission. The vote will not be compulsory. The Project Team confirmed that a future process for assessing support in Hawker will be on the work programme for the Committee to discuss. The Committee will advise on a mechanism most appropriate for the Hawker community.

#### *Independent Heritage Assessment*

- On 10 April the Indigenous Working Group, made up of representatives from the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) and Viliwarintha Yuras Aboriginal Corporation (VYAC), met for the first time. The Working Group is progressing an independent heritage assessment on the volunteered land.

## Safety Case Overview

Jonathan Armstrong provided an overview of the Safety Case.

Jonathan Armstrong is a Main Board Director of Frazer-Nash (800 staff worldwide) and leads its Australian business. He is based in Adelaide. Frazer-Nash is a systems and engineering technology consultancy, with around a third of the company's work in the nuclear sector. Previously Jonathan served as the head of Frazer-Nash's systems assurance practice in the UK, leading a team of 100 consultants providing safety and environmental assurance to complex engineering projects. The team's portfolio included a wide range of nuclear projects, including new build support to the Regulator, technology vendors and licensees. Previously he worked within the UK's civil nuclear industry, heading a team responsible for reactor core and nuclear fuel safety case support. He has wide-ranging nuclear safety case experience, spanning new build, operational reactors, decommissioning facilities and naval reactors. He is a strong advocate of safety case leadership, ensuring that safety cases are targeted at the needs of the operator and provide clear and coherent arguments that are accessible to all stakeholders. He grew up in the Highlands of Scotland and studied Physics at Edinburgh University.

#### *Summary*

- Safety cases are for the Operator and are independently assessed by the Regulator as part of the licencing process. They are a living set of documents that need to meet the needs of a variety of audiences. Safety cases are reported as a part of a staged process and are interlinked with design, inventory and waste acceptance criteria (WAC).

#### *Discussion*

- A Committee member asked about validity periods of licenses. Early stage licenses allow for specific once-off activities to be completed and an operational license is generally valid for 10 years, followed by periodic safety reviews which demonstrate ongoing compliance with accepted safety standards.
- A Committee member asked about how new knowledge will be incorporated into the Safety Case, and the Facility upgraded as appropriate. Periodic safety reviews ensure the Safety Case continues to take into account new knowledge and international safety standards.
- A Committee member asked who would operate the Facility. Operational responsibility of the Facility is under consideration in the Detailed Business Case (DBC), which will be submitted to Government this year.
- A Committee member noted previous flooding in the area, for consideration in the development of the Safety Case.

## Design and functionality requirements of the Facility

Carl Jenkins provided an overview of design and functionality requirements of the Facility.

Since leaving the Royal Australian Navy in 2007, Carl has worked across a range of programs and projects with Defence and the Commonwealth Government, having moved into the Facilities and Infrastructure market in 2009. He has worked in a number of projects from construction management of building sites across the ACT and NSW, to advising the Department of Finance through the DBC and EIS for the Moorebank Intermodal Terminal and project managing the rollout of indigenous infrastructure for the Commonwealth Department of Health. He is involved in the delivery of a number of Defence infrastructure projects nationwide.

Carl is currently delivering the technical inputs into the DBC for the NRWMF for the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

### *Summary*

- The design process follows the International Atomic Energy Agency's technical requirements and focuses on functions, infrastructure and systems. It integrates Safety Case requirements, community requirements, and regulatory requirements.
- The design process for the Facility is currently half way through the conceptual design phase. Concept design, and principal's project requirements have commenced. The functions the Facility will need to have to meet policy objectives, such as waste preparation, security and supporting infrastructure, have been defined.
- Following steps include site characterisation, site specific concept design, handling/transport and costing. Community engagement will continue to underpin this process.

### *Discussion*

- A Committee member asked about CSIRO waste in Woomera. CSIRO has commenced a project to characterise the waste, it will not come to the Facility in its current form. It is the responsibility of the waste owner to ensure the waste will meet the WAC.
- A Committee member asked about technical jobs at the Facility. At ANSTO, 6 months of training is generally sufficient for unskilled workers to do technical jobs. Locals can be trained for these jobs at the Facility.
- A Committee member asked about the size of vaults. The number and size of vaults for the disposal of low level waste (LLW) will be defined by the inventory of legacy waste and expected volumes in the next 100 years. It will also depend on the WAC.
- A Committee member asked about the height of the buildings. The highest building will need to store the TN81 (approximately 5 metres tall) plus the additional height to accommodate the crane. The community will be consulted on the aesthetics of the Facility, while technical requirements are still met.
- A Committee member asked about road access to the Facility. There will be 24-hour access for light vehicles. Waste transportation will not require 24-hour access and waste deliveries can be planned around seasonal variations in weather. As vehicles transporting waste will need to travel on state-grade highways, roads may need to be upgraded. The need for bridges will depend on flood probabilities.
- A Committee member asked about the Facility's outer fence. While the inner fence (around the inner 40 hectares) will need to be secure, the outer fence (enclosing the complete 100 hectares) provides a buffer from encroachment and designates Commonwealth ownership. However, there is no safety-related requirement for these 60 hectares. Thus, the community can determine the use of the outer area and fence.

- Committee members asked about water sourcing for the Facility. Surface and ground water will be considered in the site characterisation and Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) assessment process. Viable options will be site specific and depend on these results.
- A Committee member asked about waste that does not pass the WAC. Waste owners are required by ARPANSA to find a final disposal means for their waste. If the waste does not meet the WAC, it will remain the responsibility of the waste owner and will not be accepted until suitably conditioned to meet the WAC.

## Detailed Business Case Overview

Terry Marshman (DIIS Project Team, Operations Team) gave an overview of the Two Stage Capital Works Approval Process, including the Detailed Business Case.

### *Summary*

- Initial Business Case: in 2014 the government gave in-principle agreement to the project. It acknowledged the need and benefits of a purpose-built national facility for the disposal of LLW and the benefits of potentially co-locating intermediate level waste (ILW) storage at the Facility, pending future disposal at another facility.
- Detailed Business Case: the Project Team is preparing this to seek the Government's agreement to proceed with the project. This involves the development of the project scope to functional design brief standard, full costings at P80 cost confidence and comprehensive analysis of project benefits, risks, timeframes and contingencies. Part A (non-site specific) is due in 2017. Part B (site specific) is due in 2018.
- Public Works Committee (PWC) and Regulatory Approvals process: the Project team will then need to seek PWC approval and regulatory licensing approvals including those from Department of Environment and Energy (under the EPBC Act), and ARPANSA (under the ARPANS Act). Public consultations will continue at each stage throughout these processes.

### *Discussion*

- A Committee member asked about pricing arrangements. The Project Team is developing the cost model of the facility to provide full cost transparency and provide the full range of pricing policy options for Government consideration. This will include the potential for full cost recovery and for differential pricing approaches across the range of waste streams.
- A Committee member asked about the scoping of both LLW and ILW in the Detailed Business Case. The Detailed Business Case assesses the options brought forward in the Initial Business Case. The two facility options being costed are LLW disposal in an engineered facility, and co-located LLW disposal and ILW storage in an engineered facility. The 'business-as-usual' base case is also being assessed.
- A Committee member asked about the construction timeframe. At this stage, construction is anticipated to take approximately 12 months to establish the initial operating capability of the Facility. However, the whole process will proceed incrementally and in an ongoing manner as vaults are created and filled as waste arrives.
- A Committee member asked about job opportunities across the DBC options. If the project proceeds, there will be a minimum of 15 full time equivalent jobs to operate the facility. This number is a low estimate, and there may be scope for more positions depending on what option is pursued by government.

- Committee members asked about ANSTO's ILW. As ANSTO's ILW storage capacity will be reached in August 2017, ANSTO is constructing new ILW storage space. This additional capacity will be filled approximately in 2023. There is no current deadline for the removal of ILW from ANSTO, however ANSTO's Lucas Heights campus is only licensed by ARPANSA to store both LLW and ILW on a temporary basis, and on the condition that a plan is developed by the end of the decade for a final disposal pathway for its waste.
- A Committee member asked about jobs at the Facility. At ANSTO their employees work set hours from Monday to Friday. Details of Facility operation will be determined during the detailed design phase and will depend on how routinely waste is arriving. Other considerations include logistics, waste coming from various parts of the country, and the potential for a visitor centre. The Project Team noted work required during construction was not included in the job estimate.

## Economic Development Working Group

Alex Baxter provided an overview of the draft Terms of Reference developed for the Economic Development Working Group.

### *Discussion*

- Committee members noted an interest in utilising Regional Development Australia Far North as an advisor to come speak to the group and to assist in writing documents.
- The Chair requested regular updates on the working group's activities. Future agendas will be amended as in Action Item 2.
- Three committee members have expressed interest in being nominated for the working group.

**Action Item 2:** Future BCC meeting agendas will include an update on the working group's activities and decisions.

**Action Item 3:** The Committee will decide on their nominations for the working group, out of session, after the Project Team advertises expressions of interest online and in local papers.

## Other Items

### *Topics for discussion at the next meeting*

The next BCC meeting will discuss the survey process. The Project Team may arrange ORIMA research to send a representative to explain the previous survey process. The Committee may also consider the vote arrangements being organised in Kimba.