

Barndioota Consultative Committee minutes

Inaugural meeting - 13 December 2016

The Government, through the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (Department), is currently undertaking a process to establish a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (facility) to manage Australia's low level and intermediate level radioactive waste. This process is referred to as 'the project' in these minutes.

Barndioota, South Australia, was shortlisted for Phase Two of the project on 29 April 2016. This entails further community consultation and technical assessment work.

The Department is dedicated to ensuring the community is fully engaged and is able to provide input on key aspects of the project throughout Phase Two. Therefore, the Department has established the Barndioota Consultative Committee (Committee) to assist in this phase.

The purpose of the Committee is to ensure constructive dialogue and information exchange between the Government and the Barndioota community relating to Phase Two of the project.

The Committee is not a decision-making body and performs an advisory role only.

Roles and responsibilities of the Committee and its members

- The purpose of the Committee is to:
 - o Provide advice and input to matters effecting the community.
 - o Help the department provide good advice to the Minister.
- Full roles for each member are outlined in the Committee's guidelines, available online.

Minutes

- Minutes won't be a verbatim record, and will be reviewed by the independent convener and deputy convener prior to publishing on the department's website.
- Minutes will be published at least one week before each meeting.
- A summary of the minutes, or a link to the minutes, will be published in the Quorn Mercury, the Town Crier.
- The minutes will be published on the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility's website and in the newsletter.
 - o The department's newsletter may also include a short note from the convener, Paul Thomas.

Confidentiality/media

- Only the independent convener can speak publicly on behalf of the committee.
- Members can speak on their own positions, but not on behalf of the committee.
- The Committee can agree not to release certain information.
- Each person's position on an issue is to remain confidential. However, where the Committee has varying views, the difference is to be noted in minutes.

Agenda

- There will be a standing item to receive an update from the department, which may include a status update on the Community Benefit Programme applications.
- The agenda is to be distributed at least one week before each meeting.
- Next meetings are 14 February 2017 and then Tuesday 28 March, 2017.

Terms of Reference

- The Terms of Reference will be updated to state that the Committee will meet every 6-8 weeks, or as decided by the committee.

Overview of the facility

- The Department provided an overview of the project.
- The Department's ongoing invitation to visit the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) was reiterated to members.
 - o Action item: members to advise the Department if they are interested in visiting ANSTO.

- There were questions about whether the proposed Flinders Ranges’ world heritage listing would be put in jeopardy if the facility was sited at Wallerberdina Station.
 - Action item: The department will look into the criteria and process for world heritage listing.
- It was the Government’s intention to take 2-3 sites forward, and we are still open to receiving alternate nominations. No alternate nominations have been received.

AusIndustry’s Community Benefit Programme

- The Australian Government has committed up to \$2 million in 2016–17 for the Community Benefit Programme (programme) to support the local region. The programme acknowledges the community’s contribution to this task and any short-term disruptions the project might have. Funding is available to businesses and not for profit organisations that meet specific eligibility criteria. This programme is being administered by AusIndustry.
- Each project is subject to the following criteria:
 1. capacity and capability to carry out the project (AusIndustry’s evaluation);
 2. the benefit to the community the project will achieve (Committee’s input for AusIndustry evaluation); and
 3. the value for money offered by the project (AusIndustry’s evaluation).
- AusIndustry provided each Committee member with a summary of projects before the meeting.
 - AusIndustry provided a verbal overview of each project at the meeting.
 - The Committee discussed each project and provided input on criteria 2 for the delegate to take into account.
 - Each person provided a score (out of 10) for each project and whether they supported the project or not. This was submitted to AusIndustry to collate and average the scores.
 - It was noted that some members would have preferred to read each complete application, rather than just a summary.
 - Some members strongly opposed providing grants to individual businesses, while some members supported grants to businesses.
- If the Government decides not to sponsor projects to the value of \$2 million, the remaining amount can be used for a second round of projects.
- The Minister, or his delegate, will make the decision on which projects are funded.
- Action item: In the next newsletter, the department will provide an overview of who makes the decision to fund the projects.

Conflicts of interest

- Real and perceived conflicts of interest were disclosed.
- It was determined that no committee members had a conflict of interest in the projects to require them to be absent for the discussion.

Other items

- Action item: The Committee asked if the department could circulate a contacts list.

Attendees:

Committee members

Paul Thomas (Convener)	Philip Fels	David Michael
Greg Flint (Deputy Convener)	Jon Gill	John Rowe
Michael Anderson	Ashley Haywood	Aaron Stuart
Susan Andersson	Julia Henderson	Steven Taylor
Dianne Ashton	John Hennessy	Rachel Vella
Denise Carpenter	Janice McInnis	Cecilia Woolford
Ronald Daniel		