

Barndioota Consultative Committee minutes

Third meeting – 28 March 2017

Aaron Stuart provided a welcome to country

Reflection on the French Delegation Experience

During early February 2017, a delegation from France visited the Hawker and Quorn area. The delegation had experience working and living around facilities operated by their radioactive waste management agency, Andra.

BCC members expressed a range of views on the French delegation. Members also raised various aspects of the French waste system.

The Department was asked about the cost of engaging the French delegation. The total cost was \$41,522.55, including flights, accommodation, car hire and meals which included activities in South Australia and Canberra.

Project update

The public consultation process has commenced in Kimba, South Australia, after two landowners volunteered sites for Australia's National Radioactive Waste Management Facility. The consultation period started on 20 March 2017 and will conclude on the 21 June 2017.

Based on consultation, the community requested a vote to be undertaken and to assist Minister Canavan with his decision on whether to progress the nominated sites to the technical assessment stage (phase 2).

If any of the Kimba sites progress to the technical assessment stage, the Kimba consultation process will occur in parallel with the site nominated at Wallerberdina Station.

Introduction to the National Radioactive Waste Management Team

Michael Sheldrick provided an overview of the National Radioactive Waste Management Project team structure.

The Resources Division provides policy support and advice to Government on matters relating to the exploration and development of Australia's minerals and energy resources, as well as for key international mineral and energy resource activities. It also administers a range of regulatory functions relating to offshore petroleum and minerals activity including uranium mining and radioactive waste.

Work Program

The BCC work program was developed based on the feedback received from members at the second BCC meeting. The proposed work program is a forward working agenda outlining the issues raised in the community and proposed solutions to address particular issues. The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (the department) will continue to work with the BCC to ensure the issues discussed are driven by BCC members.

The work program proposed to the BCC was structured according to when information would be available.

Action item: Add the following topics to the work agenda:

1. *Monitoring native fauna and flora*
2. *International law and international requirements.*
3. *Palaeontology - issues related to the environment.*
4. *What is the role of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA)?*
5. *Ask independent experts to provide information/speak to the BCC.*
6. *Has radiation monitoring changed over time?*

Action item:

Committee agreed to the proposed work program.

Establishment of an Economic Development Working Group

The BCC agreed to establish an Economic Development Working Group. The working group will work with the department to ascertain:

1. How to secure local content
2. Industry capacities
3. Business accreditations
4. Business opportunities
5. Address reputational concerns

The Economic Development Working Group will report to the BCC towards the end of the year. The report will document the capabilities of local businesses that are relevant to the construction and/or operation of a facility. It will also identify opportunities for businesses/individuals to improve their capabilities so they are more able to contribute to the construction/operation of the proposed facility.

The department envisages the working group to be made up of approximately six to eight members.

Action item:

Establish a draft Terms of Reference (TOR) document for the fourth BCC meeting. Ensure the Working Group addresses reputational concerns (including tourism and agriculture), economic opportunities

in the area and also note the risks associated with small/medium businesses taking on a project of this nature.

Invite Regional Development Australia to attend a BCC meeting.

Cultural Heritage Assessment

The department will conduct a cultural heritage assessment separately from the BCC proceedings.

Members of the BCC were informed that the Viliwarinha Yura Aboriginal Corporation (VYAC) had a meeting on the 19 March 2017 where the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility project was discussed.

Mr David Sweeney from the Australian Conservation Foundation and Dr Margaret Beavis, president of the Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW), presented to the group. Bruce Wilson from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science also presented to VYAC members.

At this meeting, VYAC members appointed five representatives to work with the department to contribute to the heritage study. VYAC members also voted to determine the members' level of support for the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility project, subject to the heritage and economic outcomes.

The vote demonstrated there is strong support from the members for the project.

Action item:

Members of the BCC will be provided with updates regarding the heritage assessment and working group.

Community Benefit Programme

The Community Benefit Programme grants were announced in January 2017. As of 28 March 2017, 10 of the 11 projects have commenced.

Members of the BCC discussed the eligibility of the programme and the merit criteria that applicants were required to satisfy.

Members observed that the eligibility criteria was selective, noting that applicants must be one of the following:

1. a company, incorporated in Australia
 - Applications must come from an incorporated entity as the Commonwealth is unable to give money to individuals.
2. a corporate trustee on behalf of a trust
3. a not for profit organisation, including community groups with voting and/or financial membership of at least five individuals
4. an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander organisation, council or incorporated association
5. the Flinders Ranges Council

The committee discussed:

1. The advantages and disadvantages of the application timeline.

2. The benefits of having an AusIndustry representative present in the local area whilst applications are open.
3. Strategies for how the BCC could assess the CBP applications.
4. Receiving progress updates on the successful grant projects. Updates could be provided through Facebook and/or the project's monthly newsletter.
5. Strategies for how the BCC could help promote the next round of applications.
6. The merit criteria for applicants. It should be noted that, unsuccessful applicants are eligible to reapply in subsequent years.

BCC members were informed that the program management for the National Radioactive Waste Facility Community Benefit Programme will be transferred to the South Australia office. Adam Comley will be the new program manager.

Action item:

Provide information about grant applications to BCC members before the scheduled meeting and with advanced notice.

World Heritage Listing

The department has been in contact with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources from the Government of South Australia regarding the Flinders Ranges World Heritage Nomination.

Since the last BCC meeting on the 28 March 2017, the department has received the following information about nominating the Flinders Ranges for World Heritage:

"The South Australian Government is pursuing a nomination for parts of the Flinders Ranges for its outstanding geological and palaeontological values. We are in the very early stages of developing a nomination. We have commenced stakeholder consultation and are starting to engage with the broader community about the proposition.

"We are currently working with expert geologists and palaeontologists to identify the sites within the Flinders Ranges that best express the outstanding geological and palaeontological values that would be nominated.

"The potential location of the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility at Wallerberdina Station near Hawker would have no impact on the World Heritage proposal for the Flinders Ranges (given the nature of the values for which we are pursuing a nomination, geology and fossils, and the distance of the areas of interest from the location of the potential waste management facility)."

More information about the World Heritage for the Flinders Ranges can be found here: [World Heritage for the Flinders Ranges](#)

Woomera

Department representatives were asked about the CSIRO facility on Department of Defence land near Woomera, South Australia.

An inspection of drums was conducted by the independent nuclear regulator, the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA). A number of inadequacies were identified with the current storage arrangements. To address the regulator's concerns, CSIRO has developed a \$29.7 million, three-year project to assess and treat the waste.

The waste will need to be characterised and repackaged. Any waste accepted from Woomera, or any other facility will need to be solid and immobilised to meet the stringent waste acceptance criteria of the proposed facility.

Facility Budget

The department was asked how much money has been allocated to the project.

Project budget information can be found within the department's Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) that are publicly issued annually. The department has a current budget allocation of \$43.4 million across the financial years of 2015-16 to 2018-19. This budget allocation covers a range of activities in relation to the project:

1. Site selection and acquisition
2. Consultation and Community Engagement
3. Indigenous Heritage Assessment
4. Site Characterisation
5. Development of a Detailed Business Case
6. Approval processes such as Public Works Committee approvals, and national and international regulatory licensing requirements (environmental and nuclear related)
7. Community Benefit Programme

Webinar

A webinar was held on the 23 February 2017.

The purpose of the webinar was to convene an expert panel to discuss key issues around the nuclear medicine industry in Australia. The webinar was designed to engage a broad spectrum of community groups, professional organisations, breadth of industry and other stakeholders.

The panel discussed:

1. Australia's role in the production of radionuclides for nuclear medicine
2. Various production pathways
3. International markets
4. Waste generation
5. The implications for the Australian community.

The webinar considered the contemporary knowledge and evidence on current production in Australia and overseas, the suitability of Australia's use of nuclear medicine facilities and cyclotrons, and the case around importing and exporting nuclear medicine products.

The expert panel included:

1. **Facilitator:** Dr Geoff Currie, PhD Associate Professor in Medical Radiation Science, Charles Sturt University
2. **Non-expert Moderator:** Associate Professor Lyn Angel, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Science, Charles Sturt University
3. **Panel Member:** Professor Hosen Kiat, Nuclear Medicine Physician and Cardiologist, Cardiac Health Institute
4. **Panel Member:** Professor Dale Bailey, President ANZSNM and medical physicist
5. **Panel Member:** Adi Paterson, CEO Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)
6. **Panel Member:** Associate Professor Barry Elison, Director of Nuclear Medicine Illawarra Shoalhaven Area Health Service
7. **Panel Member:** Dr Margaret Beavis, President of the Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW)
8. **Panel Member:** Francois Couillard – CEO CAMRT and President Ottawa OCIS, Canada
9. **Panel Member:** Dr Peter Karamoskos, Radiologist and Nuclear Medicine Physician, Epworth Hospital, Melbourne

The webinar transcript and video can be found here: [Webinar](#)

Dates for upcoming meeting

The fourth BCC meeting will be held on 2 May 2017

No date has been set for the June meeting

Attendees:

Committee members

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

Absentees:

Apologies received from the following committee members:

Ronald Daniel
John Hennessy
Cecilia Woolford
Michael Anderson

Department of Industry, Innovation and Science attendees:

Michael Sheldrick
Angus Cole
Michelle Pereira
Rebecca Mouthaan
Jessica Chen
Adam Comley
Geoff Atkinson
Zaaheer Mckenzie