



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

National Radioactive Waste Management Facility

Kimba Consultative Committee

Meeting Notes

Thursday 12th April 2018

Agenda

Time	Item	Lead
Tea and Coffee available from 08:30		
09:00-09:30	Welcome and Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apologies - Overview of the agenda - Approval of Observer Protocol 	Mr Allan Suter, Independent Convener
09:30-10:30	Environmental Protection <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	Mr Daniel Rothenfluh, Department of the Environment
10:30-10:45	- Community Benefit Programme Update	Adam Comley, AusIndustry
10:45-11:00	Morning Tea Break	
11:00-11:15	Project Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Site Characterisation Update 	DIIS
11:15-12:00	Telstra Discussion to get a better understanding of telecommunication challenges in the community	Mr Mark Bolton, Telstra
12:00-13:00	Lunch Break	
13:00-13:45	ANSTO Facility Design Presentation and Framework Discussion	Mr Alex Borovskis, ANSTO DIIS
13:45-14:15	KEWG Agenda Overview	DIIS
14:15-14:45	Afternoon Tea	
14:45-15:15	Brainstorming on project ideas	DIIS

Attendees:

Allan Suter (Independent Convener)	Pat Beinke	Meagan Lienert
Jeffery Baldock	Peta Willmott	Randall Cliff
Amy Wright	Jeff Koch	Heather Baldock
Kerri Rayson	Peter Woolford	

Apologies:

Dean Johnson (Deputy Convenor)	Sally Inglis	Symon Allen
Kellie Hunt	Toni Scott	

Other Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan	Minister for Resources and Northern Australia
Mr Rowan Ramsey MP	Member for Grey, South Australia
Bruce Wilson	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team – Principal Advisor
Ian Carter	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team – Assistant Manager
Stephen Clarke	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team - Community Consultation Team
Maree Barford	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team - Community Consultation Team
Daniel Rofenfluh	Department of the Environment and Energy
Alex Borovskis	ANSTO
Adam Comley	AusIndustry
Abbie Arbon	AusIndustry
Mark Bolton	Telstra

Action Items

Item	Status
1. The department to provide audio files of Minister's radio interview	Complete
2. The department to provide Dept. of the Environment and Energy's presentation to the KCC	Complete
3. Send email with links to various guidelines (e.g. The guidelines on significant Impact)	Complete
4. The department is to provide the EPBC Act to the KCC	Complete Available Here
5. Send link to buffer website (by putting a GPS location in you can view what is around your house)	In Progress
6. The department to provide a paper on the voting process	Complete
7. Action: The department to provide timeline of information to the KCC	Complete
8. Department to provide email address of Mark Bolton to KCC	Complete
9. Department to provide Telstra costings brochure from Mark Bolton to KCC	In Progress – by Telstra
10. The department to provide ANSTO's presentation to the KCC	Complete
11. Department to provide letter from Kimba Council to the KCC. link to Kimba Council letter	Complete
12. Ideas from brainstorm should be incorporated into next meeting agenda	Complete
13. Department to provide newsletter the week after each KCC meeting	Complete
14. When available send on AECOM reports	In Progress
15. Grain Growers Associations views on co-existence with the facility	In Progress
16. KEWG to meet by end of April 2018	Complete

Meeting opened 09:00am

Welcome

Allan Suter welcomed members to the meeting.

Allan Suter read a brief statement on behalf of Mayor Dean Johnson regarding Senator Matt Canavan's statement to media earlier on the same day.

The statement read:

Despite media coverage over the past 24 hours regarding the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia's of a final ballot to determine the final location for a National Radioactive Waste Management Facility would be held from August 20.

Council is yet to receive a formal request from the Australian Government to facilitate a vote in Kimba. Council's long-standing position remains that a final ballot should not be held until the community has access to all the information to make an informed decision about the technical aspects of the facility as well as the benefits it will deliver for our town's social and economic growth.

Action Item 1:

The department to provide audio files of Minister's radio interview

Allan Suter provided an overview of the agenda:

- At the end of the meeting we'll quickly deal with some questions that have been asked out of session.
- For example a member has asked about the LIDAR survey, whether that was 12,000ha on each site or 12,000ha in total. The Department has release a lot of information on the website and that question is actually answered.
- It is 12,000ha for each site.

Environmental Protection

Daniel Rofenfluh from The Department of the Environment and Energy gave an overview of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conversation Act 1999*. Mr. Rofenfluh's background is in chemistry and has been with the Department of the Environment and Energy since 2007.

Mr. Rofenfluh's presentation included the following topics:

- An overview of the EPBC Act.
- The assessment process.
- Approval process for establishing a radioactive waste facility.

Action Item 2:

The department to provide Dept. of the Environment and Energy's presentation to the KCC.

Action Item 3:

Send email with links to various guidelines (e.g. the guidelines on significant Impact).

Action Item 4:

The department is to provide the EPBC Act to the KCC.

Discussion

- A member asked if the department (of Environment and Energy) plays a role if things do go wrong.
- Mr. Rofenfluh responded:
 - With most of the projects there will be a federal approval and a state approval.
 - Some of the things that the state approves, we don't approve.
 - The department assesses what the proponent intends to do, if that the state hasn't done enough the department provides additional conditions that go to the proponent.
 - Mr. Rofenfluh acknowledged that there a lot of problems in Australia with mines – they are restricted through the EPBC act what we can and can't do.
- A member asked if something such as the nuclear studies that would only be federal and not state.
- Mr. Rofenfluh responded:
 - In this case it would be.
 - There wouldn't be the same issues that you see with mines etc. which are legacy issues.
- Bruce Wilson raised the point that the intersection of the NRWMF act, the EPBC act and State Law is something that is still being worked through. The NRWMF act does override the state acts but the federal government doesn't want to override everything.
 - Mr. Rofenfluh added that Airports are commonwealth land and the Department of Infrastructure and regional development have the legislative powers over airports but they must come to the Department of Environment to seek their advice because it's commonwealth land.
 - When the public put comments to the proponents the proponent must provide a response to each comment.
- A member asked whether they will wait for a preferred site and then do an assessment or will three sites be assess.
 - The department won't be making a referral to the EBPC process until a site is selected.

Action Item 5:

Send link to buffer website (by putting a GPS location in you can view what is around your house)

- A member asked would the department be taking views or comments made from Australia wide or would they be looking at those direct to the situation.
- Mr. Rofenfluh responded:
 - The act does not discriminate anybody can make comments.

- A member asked, I would assume that when you do your studies and researching you're using experts in wildlife etc. how will you gauge social, economic and cultural impacts?
- Mr. Rofenfluh responded:
 - A lot through comments and what the proponent tells us – we also go to the Ministers that have responsibility. We go to the Department of health and ask them for comment and we'll go to the state and ask them for advice as well. It's really up to the public to tell us.
 - The department will put in a referral and then it's available for the public to comment on that.
- A member understood that there won't be any referral until there is a preferred site. They then asked if it will be the same process for any of the sites:
 - Yes, the Department of Environment and Energy have to follow the EBPC act strictly.
 - If they don't they're open to legal challenges – the process is extremely important to follow.
- Bruce Wilson noted that to ensure the community has all the information, including do the referral before the vote and obtain project approvals and conditions would be unrealistic and drag the process of site selection for both communities by nearly two years. All the information in terms of 'show stoppers' is being gathered now.

Community benefit programme update

The successful Community Benefit Programme (CBP) applications were announced 11 April 2018. Adam Comley (AusIndustry) provided a short update on the programme:

- Every project was successful.
- Collectively it was a very good set of proposals.
- The \$2 million was fully allocated.
- Part funding was offered to one of the grants – we will talk to them about what that will look like for them – the scope of the project might have to change.
- Some projects will have conditions – this has been done so no funds are wasted.
- Draft agreements should be issued next week.
- Best case scenario is that funding is out by the end of this month or middle of May.
- AusIndustry will visit the region to answer questions etc.
- The KCC's input did make a difference to make sure that all projects received funding.

Discussion

- A member asked what is the process with the project that did get part funding.
- Mr Comley noted that AusIndustry was not at liberty to discuss particulars of individual projects but:
 - The project proponents might come back and say that they will proceed.
 - AusIndustry have not yet had an in-depth conversation with them.
 - We will discuss the options they can scale back the project.
- A member asked if AusIndustry would be able to assist in looking for further grants.
- Mr Comley replied:
 - It's AusIndustry's core business to work with people to develop ideas
 - However AusIndustry won't be able to help with the writing of application. This was a special part of the CBP.

- A member asked how long a successful applicant has to complete the project.
 - Mr Comley replied, two years.

Minister Matt Canavan

The Minister addressed the committee after morning tea and addressed the following topics:

- Release of the Radioactive Waste Management Framework.
- Announcement of vote date subject to councils approval – 20 August 2018.
- The formation of the Kimba Economic Working Group.
- The \$10 million benefit fund.
- Co-benefits of the proposed facility.

Minister Canavan invited the KCC to provide its view on the voting process, particularly the boundaries and on possible ideas for the community benefits package.

Rowan Ramsey also addressed the committee thanking them for their dedication and hard work throughout the process.

Discussion

- The Chair suggested that there needs to be two priorities including:
 - Future economic benefits which can feed into the Economic Working Group.
 - Confirming the information that we require to make an informed vote.
 - The chair suggested that the KCC should prioritise these topics.
- A member asked about further details of the vote:
 - Date is subject to councils approval
 - The government is suggesting to open voting on 20 August 2018 by postal ballot
 - Details to be confirmed with Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) but the vote will be open for at least 4 weeks.
- A member asked if the additional infrastructure that may be needed within the community will be on top of the \$10 million fund.
 - Yes, any co-benefits will be separate from the fund itself.
- A member added that the legislation states the fund goes to the state and then to be distributed.
 - It's not unusual for Commonwealth funds to be allocated in this way but it's not the way the department would envisage it – there is scope to change this
 - The Minister sees it as a fund that could support the community for ever
 - The department will work out the mechanics of the fund but the community will need to tell the department what they want to get out of it
- A member asked how will the government assure the community of the process of the fund before the vote.
 - This information will be provided as best as possible and department will provide information on how they will manage it
 - Information will be provided on how much the fund will be and how it will be transferred
- A Member expressed their disappointment that five members aren't present and that the department should have notified members so they could have changed their plans.
- A member added that there are people that support the town but are outside the boundary line – will the Minister take the advice from KCC or will advice be taken from the Council.

- The Minister has invited feedback from the KCC regarding the boundaries. The Minister would be interested in seeing a formal view for him to consider. The Minister expressed that they need to know this feedback as soon as possible.
- The Minister stated that he will also get a report from the department on community sentiment.
- A member also if the senate inquiry has a recommendation does the government have to take that on board.
 - They are recommendations and not direction to government.
 - However the Minister indicated he would like the chance to consider the Committee's recommendations.
- A member expressed their concern regarding making exemptions to the boundary for the vote.
 - The Minister acknowledged this concern and agreed that any changes must be made on a reasonable basis.
- A member mentioned that prior to the last vote the council advertised extensively for people outside the boundary to apply to be added to the CEO roll.

The Minister noted that a line had to be drawn somewhere and those outside the boundary could make a submission which would be taken into account.

- A member asked how much influence will site suitability have on his decision.
 - That will be one of the three reports the Minister receives which include the community sentiment report and site selection report which will go through those issues. But be considered at all site must be considered technically suitable
 - If there still remains more than one viable site after all the reports the Minister will have to make a decision on a preferred site – looking at factors like cost of construction.
- A member suggested that a discussion should be made on how the vote will be structured including how the question will be asked.
 - These details will have to be confirmed with the AEC.
 - A members requested that the committee receive further information on this.

Action Item 6:

The department to provide a paper on the voting process to the committee (before next meeting)

- A member stated that the community want to know more about infrastructure plans.
- Mr Wilson replied:
 - AECOM are doing work on the infrastructure needs which will feed this information
 - The design for the facility will be generic across the three sites but the infrastructure need will be different on each site.

Action Item 7:

Timeline of information to be provided before vote (before next meeting).

The Minister thanked members for their time.

Telstra

Mark Bolton (General Manager for South Australia) gave a short overview of the processes Telstra goes through and the telecommunications technology available. Mr. Bolton looks after Investment and co-investment as well as community engagement:

- The investment that Telstra have made in the area of Grey is approximately \$12.6 million in the last 12 months.
- The network has been upgraded to 4GX which results in faster internet speeds.
- Telstra is investing largely in their mobile network including co-investing.
- There is funding for co-investment opportunities.
- Emerging technology like small cells (4GX – Internet only).

Discussion

- A member inquired what kind of percentage are the co-investments.
 - The current co-investment set-up through Telstra is 50/50.
- A member asked If a site were to be selected here there would be coverage provided around that site by the government – would it be feasible to add on to that to extend the range:
 - An optic fibre will be needed to go into that facility.
 - Once there is optic fibre you can run a various technologies that could benefit the community.
 - It depends where the facility is (topography etc.) to what kind of coverage you can receive.
- A small cell would cover up to 2kms.
- A base station could cover up to 10kms.
- In that case would it be better to have something central away from the facility would be?
 - Telstra would determine the best location to place the infrastructure.
- A member mentioned that it's more important for them to have coverage on their farms and in the community rather than having the coverage 10-20kms along the A1 highway.
- Mr. Bolton stated that satellite can be used as a transmission which means much more affordable options are available:
 - It could be just the roof of the building – we can actually use satellite as a transmission we're looking at something under \$100,000 we can just bolt – the contribution we need from the other part is \$37,000 for a small cell set up.
 - A member added the costs outweigh the benefits.
- A member suggested that it would be a good idea to do a study of the area:
 - Mr Bolton agreed – this is something they can do in the future.

Action item 8:

Share email address of Mark Bolton to KCC.

- A member stated that the community has been asking for local televisions and whether different plans will be available with 4G:
 - 4G will have greater access.
 - When the infrastructure is upgraded to 5g you will have plans that are unlimited under 100gb for under \$100.

Action item 9:

Department to provide Telstra costings brochure from Mark Bolton to KCC and to ensure Telstra engages with AECOM to develop a telecommunications plan for the district. This would be initially framed around the upgrades required to support the NRWFM which would be the backbone and a plan for cost-effective upgrades to extend across the district

Agenda items for next meeting

The Chair outlined the agenda items for the next meeting.

- List of possible community benefit items – to be sent to the Kimba Economic Working Group:
 - A member expressed concern that this had been tabled for the current meeting and that the Kimba Economic Working Group should meet soon.
- Itemised the additional information that would be required before a community vote
 - Members agreed.
 - As per action item 7 – a timeline of this information will be provided by the department before the next meeting.
- Discussion around the assurances around the control of the potential future benefit fund:
 - Members agreed.
- Discussion about the boundaries of the vote:
 - Members agreed.
- Discussion about the nature of the vote:
 - Members agreed.
 - As per action item 9 a paper on the voting process will be provided by the department.

Project update

Bruce Wilson gave a brief overview of the site characterisation work including the following topics:

- Seismic surveying has been completed.
- LIDAR has flown over.
- Bore hole drilling and shallow trenches will be completed over the next couple of weeks.
- Site design is underway – to be completed in May.
- Safety Case is underway.
- Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) should be complete in the next couple of weeks.

Framework

Bruce Wilson gave an overview of the Radioactive Waste Management Framework.

- New Waste Management Function which:
 - Sets expectations both domestically and internationally on Australia's approach to radioactive waste management.
 - Coordinates decisions around Commonwealth held waste.
 - Responsible for managing the waste management stream.
 - Develop an Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) disposal pathway.
- ILW will be going to the the facility.

Discussion

- A member expressed their concern regarding the ILW there is no timeframe around it being in the facility:
- Mr Wison replied:
 - It is difficult to put a timeframe on this.
 - The waste that is held at ANSTO and Woomera is in different forms, the experts will have to look at this material and work out how they will condition and package it – it will all have to meet the WAC.
 - The process to find a ILW disposal pathway will happen in the next few years.
 - The ILW will remain at the new facility on a rough 20-30 year basis.

ANSTO Facility Design Presentation

Alex Borovskis gave an overview of the facility design work that is now underway at ANSTO. Mr. Borovskis works in the Waste Management Services division, Lucas Heights Facility and is a lead engineer working on the concept design of the facility on behalf of the department. Mr Borovskis gave an overview of the following:

- Concept design update.
- Building design principles.
- Influence of the Site Characterisation on design.
- The safety case.

Discussion

- A member asked who ANSTO will be consulting along the way:
- Mr Borovskis replied:
 - ANSTO has a number of International partners in France, Spain and the UK
 - The UK repository are experts when it comes to the safety case
 - High level discussions are also being had with experts in Italy and Bulgaria
 - Alex himself worked in the UK repository for six months
- Bruce Wilson asked whether the safety case will be peer reviewed
 - That is something ANSTO are looking at but has not been confirmed
- A member asked if the waste could be found to be better stored underground.
- Mr Borovskis replied:
 - They were advised that the waste will be stored above ground that is something that will not change.
- A member asked if the the facility will need any special emergency services.
- Mr Borovskis replied:
 - The concept facility design will feature a helicopter pad and a road that can turn into plane runway
- A member stated that after listening to these presentations they are reassured that the facility will be safe.
- A member stated that if the government is so sure it won't affect grain growing then why can't they find overseas grain buyers to assure the committee.
 - The department agreed that this is something they could look at doing.

Action Item 10:

The department to provide ANSTO's presentation to the KCC.

Economic Working Group Agenda

The Chair gave an overview of possibilities of topics for the Kimba Economic Working Group (EWG) to undertake.

Discussion

- Member asked whether members of the public were able to send suggestions directly to the KEWG.
 - They were advised that this will be okay to do.
- A member expressed concern regarding the timeframes of the KEWG to meet.
 - The department agreed that a meeting should be facilitated as soon as possible.

Council letter

A letter from the Kimba Council was circulated to the committee and sent. The Convenor read the letter to the committee.

Action Item 11:

Department to provide letter from Kimba Council to the KCC.

Project ideas

The Chair requested that members to briefly outline their ideas for projects which could be funded through hosting the facility.

Discussion

- A member suggested the need for continuative doctors is a must. More sustainable ways to access doctors and allied health. The member added that aged care facilities also need attention.
- A member stated that future fund should be considered to assure long-term funding:
 - A member added that there should be terms that stipulate that the funds can't be clawed back by the government in the future.
- A member suggested an increase in child care facilities. There are people in the area that don't have access to affordable child care.
- A member suggested that – work experience supporting STEM projects – scholarships, annual trips, to Canberra (Geoscience Australia, CSIRO), visits to the schools, and visits to teachers are extremely valuable to the community.
- A member stated that the school need some immediate upgrades including new air-conditioning.
- A member suggested Research and Development for agriculture. The government would come up with a fund to do testing in the buffer zone. Calculated on what the 100ha would make in a year which is around \$75,000.

- Bruce Wilson added that the projects won't be limited to the Kimba community but regional projects also.
- A member suggested a vermin free nature reserve.
- A Member suggested the presence of a business or economic development officer to work with the community. They would help source funds – (e.g. agricultural hall of fame). This could benefit lots of different groups and aspects of community life.
- A Member suggested a multi-user value adding centre. They added that it would provide great benefits for farmers and could provide off-spec grain facilities.
- It was agreed that as time was constricting the discussion further ideas should be sent to the KEWG for their consideration. At the departments suggestion it was agreed that members not present could also forward any ideas or proposals.

Action item 12:

Ideas from brainstorm should be incorporated into next meeting agenda. Members with further suggestions for project proposals should forward to the KEWG through its Chair.

Proposed observer protocol

The Chair outlined the observer protocol and asked whether anyone had anyone saw any flaws in this document.

Discussion

- A Member asked if that observers could be asked to leave during confidential discussion.
 - The Chair confirmed that the protocol would allow for this.

Members agreed to the use of the observer protocol.

Other business

Discussion

- A Member expressed concern regarding a Kimba person who was interviewed for a story while at ANSTO. The member stated that the person had told him that he was not happy with the way his comments were portrayed.
 - The department representative and another member addressed the issue and explained that the interviewee had multiple chances to look over the interview and was able to give final approval.
- A member suggested that the KCC develop a newsletter style update after each meeting.
 - The newsletter will focus on the main points of each KCC meeting including any presentations.
 - The newsletter will be provided to the KCC and distributed to the community in hard copy form as well as on the NRWMF website.
 - Members agreed that the newsletter should go ahead.

Action item 13:

Department to provide newsletter the week after each KCC meeting.

Meeting closed 2:30pm