



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

National
Radioactive Waste
Management Facility

Barndioota Consultative Committee

Meeting Notes

Tuesday 22 August 2017

Agenda

Time	Item	Lead
Tea and coffee available from 10:00		
10:30-10:35	Welcome to country	Michael Anderson
10:35-10:45	Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Apologies – Overview of the meeting agenda 	Paul Thomas, Independent Convener
10:45-11:10	Approve Draft Notes of the 5 th Meeting (27 June 2017) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Discussion 	Paul Thomas
11:10 – 11:30	Project Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Update on Economic Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tourism/Ag Benchmarking activity – Update on Kimba nominations – Heritage Working Group update – Expectations of member’s use of social media 	DIIS – Alex Baxter
11:30-12:30	Community Benefit Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Update & discussion of potential projects 	DIIS – Bruce McCleary & Damien Halliday
12:30-13:15	Lunch Break	
13:15-14:15	Licensing and Regulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ARPANSA requirements and licensing process – Transportation – International requirements 	ARPANSA - Samir Sarkar
14:15-14:45	Community Definition Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review of purpose – Peta Ashworth to provide summary in October – Measurement options 	DIIS – Bruce McCleary
14:45-15:00	Afternoon Tea	
15:00-15:45	Waste Acceptance Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Introduction and explanation – Management of intermediate waste – Conditioning waste 	DIIS – Bruce McCleary
15:45-16:15	Other items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – View videos and discussion – Update from Telecommunications Working Group – Date of the Seventh BCC meeting (proposed <u>Tuesday 10 October</u>) – Other topics raised by BCC members 	Paul Thomas

Attendees:

Paul Thomas (Convener)	John Rowe	Rachel Vella
Greg Flint (Deputy Convener)	Aaron Stuart	Julia Henderson
Susan Andersson	Ashley Haywood	
Dianne Ashton	Steven Taylor	
Denise Carpenter	John Hennessy	
Ronald Daniel	Janice McInnis	

Apologies:

Philip Fels	Jon Gill	Michael Anderson
Cecilia Woolford		

Other Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Bruce McCleary	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team – General Manager
Angus Cole	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team – Manager of Community Consultation Team
Alex Baxter	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team - Community Consultation Team
Rebecca Mouthaan	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team - Community Consultation Team
Nicholas Clifford-Hordacre	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team - Community Consultation Team
Zaheer McKenzie	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team - Community Liason Officer
Damien Halliday	AusIndustry
Dr Samir Sarkar	ARPANSA
Jane Kilmartin	Advisor to Minister Joyce

Action Items

Item	Status
1. Department to provide A3 printouts of maps of the area at the next meeting.	
2. Reflect in the notes of the meeting on 22 August 2017 (these notes), that the notes for the meeting held on 27 June 2017 reflected a discussion about changing the boundaries of the area eligible for the Community Benefit Package. While general agreement was reached, the notes did not accurately reflect this.	Complete
3. Provide a list of the co-chairs and members of the Economic Working Group	Complete
4. Provide members with the public tender document for the heritage assessment	Complete
5. Once complete, the department will provide Prof Peta Ashworth's overview of the discussion about community to BCC members (a summary of the discussion that occurred at the meeting on 27 June 2017).	
6. Provide members Dr Sarkar's presentation to the BCC.	Complete
7. Include the table summarising options for measuring community support with the notes.	Complete
8. Department to re-circulate ANDRA's response to Greenpeace video, and make available on the project's website.	Complete
9. Chair to discuss with the department the possibility of the BCC writing to the Minister for Communications in relation to the improved telecommunications coverage.	
10. Department to provide detail on the radioactivity of granite.	Radiation expert Frank Harris will present on this at the next BCC

Meeting opened 10:30am

Welcome to Country

- Paul Thomas gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

Housekeeping

- The department advised that Matt Barwick from the Department of the Environment and Energy was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. His presentation will be rescheduled.
- The Convenor advised he had invited Dave Sweeney (Australian Conservation Foundation) to present at the meeting, however it was understood he was not available. Time will be allotted at the next meeting.

Discussion

- A member noted that as community representatives, all members should take the opportunity to visit the Lucas Heights facility. It was noted that not all members had done this, and the invitation remains open from the department to facilitate and pay for visits.
- Some members who have not visited Lucas Heights noted that their views on the project are not solely related to the safety of the waste, but based on broader issues.
- A member raised a question about the regulations and legislative requirements associated with the establishment of a facility. The Convenor noted that a presentation from ARPANSA later in the meeting would cover these issues.

Approve draft notes of 5th meeting on 27 June 2017

Discussion

- Members approved the notes of the previous meeting, with the exception of the summary of the discussion concerning the eligible area for the Community Benefit Programme (CBP). It was generally agreed that the notes did not reflect the outcome of the discussion on the 27th of June. The notes did not sufficiently reflect the group's consideration of a community for the purpose of the CBP.
- The department noted that subsequent to that meeting, some members raised via email that there is inconsistency in having two 'community areas' for the purposes of the CBP and BCC representation.
- It was agreed that the notes for this meeting would reflect that a wide discussion occurred on changing the area eligible for the CBP. However, a considered opinion and discussion are needed before changes are proposed to the Minister. Over the next two BCC meetings, a comprehensive discussion on 'defining the community'

would occur. For the next CBP the current approved 'community' is the area which is eligible.

Action Item 1:

- *Department to provide A3 printouts of maps of the area at the next meeting.*

Action item 2:

- *Reflect in the notes of the meeting on 22 August 2017 (these notes), that the notes for the meeting held on 27 June 2017 reflected a discussion about changing the boundaries of the area eligible for the Community Benefit Package. While general agreement was reached, the notes did not accurately reflect this.*

Project Update

The department provided an update on the project:

- The Economic Working Group (EWG) has been established. All people who nominated for the EWG have been appointed.

Action item 3:

- *Provide a list of the co-chairs and members of the Economic Working Group.*

Name	Position
Malcolm (Tiger) McKenzie	Co-Chair
Ian Carpenter	Co-Chair
Rachel Vella	Member
Ashley Haywood	Member
Ronald Daniel	Member
John Coulthard	Member
Diedre McKenzie	Member
Kevin Wedding	Member

- The Kimba project office will be opened on 24th August 2017. The successful applicant for the position of Community Liaison Officer in Kimba had not been announced yet. The department believes that the process employed in Hawker has worked well. The department is in the process of establishing a Kimba Consultative Committee (KCC) and implementing a \$2 million CBP for Kimba, alongside Hawker in the next round, pending internal government approvals.
- The Heritage Working Group (HWG) has been working to engage a contractor to complete the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). This has been done

through an open tender process. Once a successful tenderer has been selected, work can commence. Heat and rain may slow down progress as we move into hotter months. The assessment will work to identify a 100 hectare area which could be used for the development of a facility.

Discussion

- A member asked about the progress of the LiDAR survey. The department advised that it had not started yet, and the BCC will be informed once surveying starts.
- A member noted that they had received a letter in reply from the Minister, who had referred their specific questions back to the BCC. The department advised that certain questions are probably better referred to the community itself (through the BCC), but factual/technical questions can be provided by the department. The Convener noted the former Minister previously met with the BCC, and they could write directly to the Minister with specific questions if they wished.
- A member raised that there was disunity in the community caused by the project, to which others disagreed. A member tabled comments from opponents to the facility made against him on social media, which he noted were extremely offensive. The department noted it cannot control people's actions on social media, and encouraged all members to use social media constructively. A member asked if there was a split in the Aboriginal community, and the department noted that the Adnyamathanha Traditional Lands Association (ATLA) and Viliwarinha Yura Aboriginal Corporation (VYAC) are working constructively with the department through the HWG.
- A member asked if other sites are being investigated by the department. The department is currently investigating a nomination made in Western Australia.
- The department advised that the Kimba *Landline* programme was not instigated by the department, and as far as it is aware the ABC approached the Kimba community in order to produce a story.

Action Item 4:

- *Provide members with the public tender document for the heritage assessment.*

Community Benefit Programme

Damien Halliday (AusIndustry) gave an update on the processes involved to establish a new round of the \$2 million Community Benefit Programme (CBP).

- The paperwork for the next package is still going through governmental processes, and is expected to be approved in the coming months. The guidelines have already been considered by the Department of Finance and AusIndustry, and any changes to the eligible area would result in lengthy delays.
- Under the previous round of the CBP, the 11 successful projects have until June 2018 to complete their projects. AusIndustry monitors the projects with regard to achievable milestones. Three projects have already been completed: the kindergarten smartboard; movie night equipment; and the all-weather access to the Mayo Hut.

- Damien will be in Hawker until the start of November. Anyone with ideas for the next round of funding should discuss their ideas with him via the local project office.

Discussion

- A member asked about the eight projects to still be completed. It was advised that all the projects are on track to meet their milestone agreements. However, AusIndustry has advised that they will be monitoring the process carefully. Any underspends or incomplete projects will have the money returned to Government.
- A member raised the issue of Telstra being part of an application under the CBP. It is advised that if there is an infrastructure provider in the project, such as Telstra, they need to be a lead entity in the project.
- The BCC had a discussion about the definition of 'community' with respect to the area eligible for CBP payments. The department outlined the purpose of the CBP is to mitigate potential disruption caused to communities undergoing the site selection process. Having two conflicting definitions for 'community' creates an imbalance, especially given the BCC represents a defined area, and provides advice on the suitability of proposed projects.
- It was agreed that two activities the BCC should complete before the end of the year are:
 - Define 'the community'
 - Determine how to measure support at the end of Phase 2
- The BCC agreed that the next round of the CBP would be carried out with the current definition of community as used in the previous round.

Action Item 5:

- *Once complete, the department will provide Prof Peta Ashworth's overview of the discussion about community to BCC members (a summary of the discussion that occurred at the meeting on 27 June 2017).*

Afternoon Session

Introduction of Jane Kilmartin

- Jane Kilmartin (Minister Joyce's advisor on the Radioactive Waste Project) was introduced to the BCC. Ms Kilmartin outlined her and the government's commitment to continuity during the transition between Ministers Canavan and Joyce.

Ms Kilmartin advised the BCC that Minister Joyce, as the Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, is responsible for the project. Senator Canavan is optimistic that he will be able to return as the responsible Minister in the near future.

Licensing and regulation – Dr Samir Sarkar (ARPANSA)

Dr Sarkar gave his presentation to the BCC on the licencing and regulation that is relevant to the establishment of a national facility, and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency's (ARPANSA) role in the Radioactive Waste project.

The slides from the presentation will be distributed to the BCC, and made available on the project website.

Discussion

Members asked Dr Sarkar a number of questions, and the following key points were made:

- ARPANSA is headed by an independent CEO, Dr Carl-Magnus Larsson.
- Australia adopts United Nations (UN) and Internatinoal Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regulations into legislation. IAEA guidelines, codes and regulations are updated on a regular basis as necessary.
- Radioactive material is regularly transported by air, and there are specific transport requirements for radioactive material that apply to different transport methods: land, sea and air.
- All IAEA member states, such as Australia, follow the guidelines. ARPANSA also follows Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) and International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) best practice and guidance in forming its regulations.
- It is a requirement in Australian legislation to take into account of international best practice, which all future CEO's must adhere to.
- The Commonwealth *National Radioactive Waste Management Act 2012* is the Act under which the Project operates and stands alongside SA's 'no nuclear' legislation. If there is a site, ARPANSA legislation does not stipulate where the site will be placed.
- The CEO is required to take into account of public submissions and public sentiment put to ARPANSA during the license application process, which has not yet started.
- The operator of the facility must apply for two types of licenses, one for low level, and one for intermediate level waste.
- The CEO will have to take into account the full cycle of waste management up until the point at which a permanent disposal solution is identified. The CEO will ensure there is no undue risk, taking into account international best practice.
- Once ARPANSA is satisfied that all the criteria from best practice has been satisfied, they will decide on the issuance of a license.
- The CEO's determination for an ILW license is that he will decide whether he is satisfied with the policy for the facility.

- ARPANSA's CEO must be satisfied that there will be no undue harm in storing any waste, whether that comes from Woomera or Lucas Heights (or elsewhere).
- The establishment of the current waste store at Woomera was pre-ARPANSA, so ARPANSA cannot comment on the practices employed with the handling of this waste.
- Before issuing a license ARPANSA examines that the operational control will last for 300 years, the design of the facility will then ensure that the facility is safe for future generations.
- In the application the applicant will have to describe how they plan to dispose of waste.
- We cannot speculate on the decisions for the CEO. There are currently no plans to extend the licence by ANSTO to hold ILW at Lucas Heights. A plan for storage of ILW needs to be made by 2020.

Action item 6:

- *Provide members Dr Sarkar's presentation to the BCC.*

Community definition update

Bruce McCleary gave a presentation on the reasons for ensuring the BCC undertakes a discussion on 'defining the community'.

- The definition of community for the project is important to define. The BCC will need to start firming on what the definition will be, as this definition will be used in a vote to determine whether the facility will go ahead.

Discussion

- A member asked if those who live outside 'the community' will be able to have a say in the final vote. It was explained that Kimba has a system in place where the mayor can make exceptions on a case-by-case basis, where there is a genuine connection to the community. This approach could be used in the Barndioota region.
- The current definition of the 50 km radius around the site, plus the remainder of the Flinders Ranges Council area was made by the department very early on in the 120-day consultation process (2015-16).
- The table below provides an outline of the various means of measuring community sentiment.

Action Item 7:

- *Include the table summarising options for measuring community support with the notes.*

	Ballot / poll / census	Survey by registration	Survey from existing lists	Self-selection survey
<u>Credibility</u>	High	High*	Moderate #	Low #
<u>Precision</u>	High	High*	Moderate #	Low #
<u>Individ. effort</u>	Low	High	Low	Moderate
<u>Complexity</u>	High	High	Moderate	Low
<u>Cost</u>	Moderate	Moderate	Higher	Low
<u>Time</u>	Long	Long	Shorter	Shorter

* = Potention

= Could be improved with large sample size

Waste Acceptance Criteria

Bruce McCleary gave a presentation on the Waste Acceptance Criteria, which will be provided to members and made available on the project website.

Q&A:

Bruce answered a series of questions following his presentation. During this he spoke about the possibility of establishing a mobile conditioning facility that would treat the waste before it would be accepted by the facility.

Waste must be conditioned prior to acceptance at the facility, and part of this work could potentially include a mobile conditioning facility that assists waste holders to condition waste at their locations, before movement to the national facility.

- The department's application to ARPANSA to be granted a license will contain details about the type of waste that will be stored at the facility.
- The potential mobile conditioning facility would make stores safe for transportation, this is not the role of the storage facility. Waste will need to meet certain criteria to be transported, and would be checked on receipt at the storage facility to ensure it was safe.
- Most of the waste comes from CSIRO and ANSTO, which will condition, pack and transport their own waste.

Other items

Telecommunications Working Group (TWG)

- The TWG met with Telstra and outlined the needs of the community for increased telecommunications coverage north of Hawker. Telstra is revisiting their options to improve coverage, and will present to the BCC at the next meeting.

YouTube video submitted by a member

- A video was played that is publicly available on YouTube which was produced by Greenpeace, 'Would you like some radioactive waste with your Champagne'.
- ANDRA, the French radioactive waste management organisation provided the department with an official response to this video which has previously been circulated to members, and is attached to these notes.

Action Item 8:

- *Department to re-circulate ANDRA's response to Greenpeace video, and make available on the project's website.*
- A member spoke about their recent trip to France and stay in the Champagne region. She asked a champagne grower about the radioactive waste facility in the area and he had no knowledge of its presence.

Other comments

- Information should flow between the EWG and the BCC to ensure ideas are captured appropriately.
- The BCC should do work towards ensuring that people who permanently work at the facility live in the region. This should be taken up with the EWG.

Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the BCC will be on 10 October 2017. The following one is proposed for 12 December 2017.
- Invites will be sent out to Matt Barwick, Peta Ashworth and Dave Sweeney.

Action item 9:

- *Chair to discuss with the department the possibility of the BCC writing to the Minister for Communications in relation to the improved telecommunications coverage.*

Action item 10:

- *Department to provide detail on the radioactivity of granite.*

Response from ANDRA (French radioactive waste management authority) to the video entitled 'Would you like some nuclear waste with your champagne?'

There are two disposal facilities that are mentioned in the video:

1. CSM facility (At capacity and closed, under long term environmental monitoring)

- The problem of tritium present in the groundwater / aquifer and in the surface water is not new – it is a well-known phenomenon which is constantly monitored and the environmental results are published.
- The presence of tritium can be explained by releases stemming from an accident that occurred in 1976 (there was a failure of the vault structure and the vaults inside). The accident has been since remediated, the packages in question removed or reconditioned.
- The source of the tritium has been removed but some tritium had already migrated into the environment, hence the readings that are still present.
- Operational activity of the site lasted 40 years. It is now closed.
- The results of ongoing environmental monitoring show that the CSM facility and its activities pose no danger, and the total calculated radiological impact on the environment of the CSM facility is more than 1000 times lower than that of the natural background radioactivity (.02 microsievert per year in 2015).
- Andra measures the level of tritium at over 61 control wells on and around the site. The highest reading often cited by Greenpeace comes from Andra's own publicly available monitoring report.

Key points:

- The tritium levels are below drinking water thresholds.
- The water coming from the aquifer and from the streams situated on the site is not drinkable, but this is due to other water quality reasons, not due to tritium or radiation levels.
- Tritium activity is in constant decline but is nevertheless continuously monitored.

2. CSA facility – in operation since 1992

- Like any industrial facility, CSA is authorised to release liquids and gases under certain thresholds. These releases have always been significantly less than threshold values (i.e. environmentally compliant).
- Diffuse releases of gaseous tritium from the CSA facility are well within CSA's license and the safety case of the facility.

- The environment is constantly monitored for these releases. The highest ever reading of tritium around the facility was to the order of 53 Bq/L in 2008 (over 1 or 2 piezometers which is not sufficiently representative of the general level in the aquifer).
- The potable water threshold is 10 000 Bq/L, a value defined by the World Health Organisation.
- The total radiological impact of the facility is 0.003 microsievert per year, which is 0.0003 per cent of the maximum permissible dose for the public (1 millisievert per year).
- Concerning the CSA activities, there has never been any impact on the agricultural produce of the neighbouring lands or the region, including the champagne vines.