



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

National
Radioactive Waste
Management Facility

Minutes

WALLERBERDINA STATION

Wednesday 25th July 2018

Economic Working Group

Wallerberdina Station Economic Working Group

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Location: Hawker Sports Centre

Time	Item	Lead
09:00	Coffee, Tea & biscuits on arrival	
09:00 – 09:45	Introduction and Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Apologies- Agenda- Business arising 25June Meeting Notes- Approval Draft 25June Meeting Notes- Debrief on construction Information – WEWG to discuss	Co - Chairs
09:45– 10:00	Project Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">- AECOM update- Cadence to present on economic study- University of Queensland (UQ) to present on socio – economic study	DIIS – Bruce Wilson
10:00– 10:30	AECOM Site Characterisation Update	AECOM – James Rusk
10:30– 11:00	Woomera Waste	CSIRO - Dirk Mallants
11:00– 11:30	Update on Economic Studies	Cadence Economics
11:30 – 12:00	Lunch	

Attendees:

Malcolm McKenzie (Co-chair)	Ian Carpenter (Co-chair)
Kevin Wedding	Ashley Haywood
John Coulthard	Deidre McKenzie
Ronald 'Mopsy' Daniel	

Apologies:

Rachel Vella

Other Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Bruce Wilson	DIIS: NRWFM Project Team – Principal Advisor

Rebecca Mouthaan	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team - Manager of Community Consultation Team
Ian Carter	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team – Manager in the Community Consultation Team
Adam White	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team - Community Consultation Team
Stephanie Skinner	DIIS: NRWMF Project Team – Community Consultation Team
Steve Brown	Cadence Economics
George Michalas	Cadence Economics
James Rusk	AECOM
Dirk Mallants	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

Action Items	Status
Action 1: Department to provide access to slides from presentation on CSIRO Woomera Waste	Complete – please find available here

Meeting opened 9:00am

Welcome to Country

- Mr Carpenter welcomed those present to the meeting and John Coulthard gave a welcome to country.

Business arising from 25th June Meeting

- Minutes from last meeting were outlined. EWG moved to accept minutes from last meeting.
- No business arising from the previous meeting.

Debrief of construction event

- Event was not well attended by business people, however those who attended were impressed.
- Members believe many businesses are keeping a low profile but suspect mostly supportive of the process. Members have talked to businesses since the event and received positive feedback.
- The Mr Ian Carpenter, Co-Chair commented AECOM provided an informative session. Commented on how it was good to see potential opportunities, and he would like the information presented again to the community and council.
- Thanks were given to team and EWG for their hard work.
- Ian Carter commented on the event. Businesses engaged with SafeWork SA, Industry Capability Network (ICN) SA and AECOM. SafeWork SA provided information on the type of tickets businesses need for future construction and right now. The ICN SA attended and

local business signed up for ICN SA projects gateway portal. The ICN SA projects gateway portal allows small businesses to link in with larger organisations currently engaged in construction work. The ICN SA projects gateway portal will assist with the construction phase of the proposed facility and with immediate benefits for local business to connect with projects in South Australia. AECOM explained to the community what the impacts would be on a range of services, and provided a powerful message on the opportunities and barriers to entry for small business linking in with tier 1 construction firms. Thanks were given to EWG for helping with the events and inviting people.

- Mr Malcolm McKenzie, Co-Chair said he has had phone calls from businesses who had not attended and had the opportunity to pass information along to them.
- A member would like ICN SA to conduct a letter drop to businesses around Hawker about what they do and how they can help businesses get involved with bigger businesses in the construction. Would like ICN SA to make themselves better known and explain what they do, so businesses know who to contact.
- A member thought the event was great, especially the AECOM presentation.

AECOM Site Characterisation Update

- James Rusk showed short video about the Wallerberdina Station site study.
- AECOM thanked VYAC for help and assistance over the six week field program. AECOM staff gained a lot from the experience.
- Mr Malcolm McKenzie, Co-Chair said the AECOM team were good at explaining safety, jobs, etc. to the young people and built good relationships with VYAC.
- AECOM thanked Ms Deirdre McKenzie for her work.
- Ms McKenzie highlighted there were 40 different people involved in the process.
- Mr Ian Carpenter, Co-Chair had concern expressed from the manager of Partacoona station, as he was not notified drillers would be out there, and was concerned about the amount of people on site. The manager of Partacoona station suggested signage out there in the future may help.
- A member commented, it gave young people training and gave them the view of the benefits of a facility.
- Co-Chair said all the work had been done from the ground up. Good way of doing things and ensure people get their input.
- Mr Wilson discussed the \$8 million dollar package and explained the funding is based around skills training, business development and building economic diversity. The package will be more targeted than previous programs and will focus on strengthening the community to maximise benefit from the facility. The department want to build on the work that has already been done to strengthen accreditation and ensure people qualify for jobs early. There are lots of opportunities for business development, including the potential to build an Indigenous tourism company.
- Mr Malcolm McKenzie, Co-Chair said Indigenous tourism would add value for everyone.
- Mr Malcolm McKenzie, Co-Chair stated people want to see contemporary Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal history. This will generate more value to area.
- Mr Ian Carpenter, Co-Chair went on to say the \$8 million dollars allocated to skills would be good for young people in Hawker and Quorn.
- Mr Wilson mentioned the Minister will be in Hawker next week.
- Mr Rusk displayed a map of the site, off Lake Torrens homestead road. Pointed out location of Hookina Ck and spring.

- AECOM has conducted flora and fauna surveys with assistance of VYAC. There was low shrub land. Looked at threatened species. There are state listed species that have been recorded outside 10km area, e.g. elegant parrot.
- Looked at climate and bushfire, taking into account climate change of hotter temps and less rainfall. Potential to impact bushfire risk. Flat ground at site, which is good for safety as bushfire does not go far in this sort of landscape.
- Background radiation is low, ideal for monitoring.
- Looked at current land use (cattle grazing).
- Flood potential was looked at. In a 1 in 100 year flood most water will move through Hookina Ck. Most of the inundation will be a maximum of a foot and will move through drainage channels. At the nominated site, there may be local flooding but not inundation.
 - Mr Ian Carpenter, Co-Chair asked what structures would stop flooding.
 - Mr Rusk stated placing facility on higher ground. Look at diverting water. Put bungs and levies in.
 - Mr Wilson said you do not need to do this for whole facility, only for the waste facility. Risk assessment being done on each component.
- Mr Rusk stated no faults identified beneath the site. Bedrock around 240m.
- Boreholes were drilled to look at soil conditions, water, etc. The water table is 20m depth with water ok for stock drinking but needs treatment for drinking. No hazards in the soil.
- A member asked if water could be used for concrete production.
 - Mr Wilson said it would probably be fine for general concrete.
- Co-chair asked if water would be needed from Hookina Creek.
 - Mr Rusk confirmed groundwater would be used.
- AECOM looked at landform stability due to flooding or dunes blowing around. No fault was found beneath site.
- Mr Rusk informed the committee seismologists looked at worst case scenario for ground shaking. Levels of ground acceleration can be mitigated through structures. For the facility structural integrity would be above and beyond what was needed.
- Mr Rusk stated all hazards are manageable.
- AECOM investigated enabling infrastructure, such as roads and telecommunications.
- Mr Rusk informed the committee of local business participation during the assessment phase. AECOM found all contractors easy to work with and commented it was good to use local knowledge.
- Mr Rusk mentioned if Wallerberdina Station was chosen, AECOM would need to conduct more work. More data for supporting applications for approvals and licences.
- Mr Wilson talked to the difference between phase 1 and 2. Show-stopping issues have been looked at in phase 1, phase 2 is about deepening the understating into design of the site.
- A member asked what Kimba site was like.
 - Mr Rusk stated there are no environmental or infrastructure constraints. Different environmental conditions but all sites could host the facility.
- Mr Malcolm McKenzie, Co-Chair said rehabilitation is required at Wallerberdina Station. He would like Ms McKenzie to be there for site review to make sure everything is right.
 - Mr Rusk confirmed he would investigate the condition of the site work post all activities completed.

Woomera Waste

Dr Dirk Mallants provided a presentation of the material contained at Woomera.

- Landfill removal from Fisherman's Bend, Melbourne contained a range of contaminated and uncontaminated soil.
- 1991 ANSTO measured the level of radioactivity of the drums:
 - 9646 (99.2%) drums had surface dose rates <5 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$
 - 68 (<1%) drums had surface dose rates 5 -17 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$
- In 1993 ARPANSA measured the level of radioactivity:
 - 98% of the drums have radioactive content <70 Bq/g and would have been classified as non-radioactive for transport purposes at that time.

Please note travel by plane return flight Melbourne to London is 5 $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$.

- Information on the drums:
 - They have a 40 year life span
 - Currently in use for 28 years
 - Checked on average every 2 years
 - No signs of deterioration
- Environmental baseline study was conducted to confirm if the site at Woomera has been contaminated by the drums:
 - A gamma radiation survey conducted at the Woomera site and measured Uranium, Thorium and Potassium around the shed.
 - A baseline gamma radiation survey was conducted in a Tasmanian irrigation zone.
 - The baseline survey determined background radiation levels at the Tasmanian site were the same as the Woomera site.
 - This work proved the area surrounding the Woomera shed shows no sign of contamination from the drums.
 - The baseline survey also confirmed no contamination of organic or inorganic chemicals.
- Next steps by CSIRO is to separate the radionuclide free drums.

Action: provide CSIRO presentation

Cadence Economics Presentation

- Mr Steve Brown spoke about the Economic Impact Assessment.
- Mr Brown outlined what will happen during construction, what will happen with extra workers in town, what enabling works, roads, and access will provide, and money to build the facility itself.
- Cash inflow of the project gets larger during the facility construction.
- Estimates are based on conservative figures. Migrant workers to come in from outside the project, spending of \$100 per day. The project will provide two benefits, direct contracts and people coming to Hawker to spend.
- Estimates are for 45 FTE, 34 retrained from the local workforce, and 11 to relocate to the region.
- People in the facility will likely get a higher average of wage than the local region. This data was not based on Hawker data specifically because it doesn't go to that detail.
- More local jobs will create bigger benefits for the region.

- Cadence Economics conducted a literature review to determine if similar facilities internationally posed a negative effect on property or agriculture prices. The review provided no evidence of adverse effects on property or agriculture prices.
- A member asked about a case study on Aboriginal participation, as it would be good to understand the participation rate.
 - Mr Brown said the data would be a good thing to get, what it points to is that some people are easier or harder to encourage into the workforce.
- A member asked how we encourage Aboriginal engagement.
 - Mr Brown said he has not seen any definitive data on that at this point. The department mentioned there is some general information on the topic, but it is tricky drawing on general studies. The department could talk to UQ about including something in their assessment but the department has not asked for it in the Cadence study. Studies could look at what the common barriers are for Aboriginal participation and what we can apply. This information would be gathered if the site was selected at Wallerberdina Station.
- The department brought up the concerns raised at the BCC around minor issues such as hurting employment in other industries. Once you go below looking at the scope, the modelling becomes contentious for small businesses. The modelling is designed to give holistic view of economic impact. A large scale project will lead to the economy as a whole being boosted.

Meeting closed 11:30am