

# **Murray Mallee Community Consultative Committee (Mineral Sands)**

## **Summary of Meeting No 5 Held at East Murray Community Centre 10:00 am Wednesday, 1 June 2005**

**Attendees:** Ted Tyne (Minerals & Energy), Garry Wardle (M&E), Gale Pfitzner (landowner), Grant Dixon (landowner), Darren Eatts (landowner), Kevin Heidrich (landowner), John Berger (Mallee Strategic Task Force), Kevin Burdett (Mayor - DCKEM), Peter Smithson (CEO – DCKEM), Mark Bell (Riverland Development Corp), Gerard Bosch (Australian Zircon NL (AZC)).

**Apologies:** Brenton Lewis (Murraylands Regional Development Board), Peter Hinner (AZC).

Ted Tyne, Director - Mineral Resources Group, chaired the meeting on behalf of PIRSA Minerals and Energy Directorate. Ted joined Minerals Group, in April 2005, from the NSW Dept of Mineral Resources and will act as chair for future meetings.

**Note:** The meeting scheduled for April was not held due to a lack of any Agenda items for discussion.

### **1 Minutes**

- The distributed minutes were accepted without amendment.

### **2 Business Arising**

- The progress on the establishment of a weather station was raised and will be referred to Brenton Lewis at the next meeting.
- Infrastructure funding for road sealing. Committee members raised concerns of the benefit to the community of the sealing of the Mindarie-EMAS-Maggea-Waikerie road. The consensus from local committee members was that the sealing of the Mindarie-EMAS-Galga-Swan Reach road would provide better service to the community.

**Action:** Indicate the MMCCC's concerns to the Murraylands Regional Development Board for response at the next meeting in August.

- The Minister for Mineral Resources Development has considered the application for rental reduction for non-operating leases, including practices in other States. He is waiting on an announcement from AZC on financial closure of credit facilities before releasing his decision.

### **3 AZC project update and Rehabilitation Trials – Gerard Bosch**

- AZC announced in February the appointment of Mr Johann Jooste-Jacobs as Managing Director.
- The Commonwealth Bank project review generated additional work on ore reserves and financials including:- an infill drilling programme to raise the status of ore reserves, required for the first five years of minelife, to a “Proven Reserve” status. Other work has included engineering studies; negotiations with earthmoving groups; pricing on conveying systems; power supply studies and road construction investigations.
- Work has continued on the development of the Mining and Rehabilitation Program required for Ministerial approval before mining may commence. It is estimated a draft may be ready by the end of June.
- Gerard gave a presentation on trial procedures used in soil profile characterisation to determine rehabilitation options on cropping land adjacent to the Mindarie C strandline on Peter Crouch’s land. PIRSA Rural Solutions are acting as consultants to AZC  
 These procedures included the trialling of electromagnetic surveys of the land using electrical conductivity in conjunction with soil sampling to help define soil profiles. Together with analyses for boron, salinity and sodicity, this method may prove useful in determination of the depth of topsoil and subsoil layers to be collected prior to mining.  
 These soil layers are collected and stored separately with a land plane. Three sites were established with subsoil depths of 40cm, 60cm and one metre. Parts of each site were dug with an excavator to replicate the effect of mining the overburden.  
 The subsoils were sequentially replaced with the addition of gypsum at an equivalent rate of 10t/ha.  
 Heavy trafficked areas were subsequently ripped to reduce the impact of compaction.
- Concern was raised that the committee did not have an opportunity to view these procedures.  
**Action:** PIRSA to liaise with AZC and landowner with regard to the next phase of these trials and advise the committee so they may attend either individually or as a group
- Discussion followed on the approvals and proposed use of water, cover crops to prevent loss of topsoil and current practise by irrigators. The committee sees the re-instatement and stabilisation of surface cover as a major concern and they felt there was a wealth of experience and knowledge on landscape and soils management around the table and amongst other landowners that could be utilised by AZC.  
**Action:** The Committee requested the Chair to pass on these concerns to AZC and the offer of technical advice from landowners.

### **4 Distribution of Committee proceedings to the community via the Community newsletter**

- A summary of the committee proceedings was sent out after the first meeting but has not been sent out since. Peter Smithson offered to

assume the responsibility of providing a summary and notifying the committee when the Community newsletters were scheduled to be sent.

**Action:** Peter Smithson will provide a summary for consideration at the next meeting.

## **5 Review of Committee membership**

- It was decided at the inaugural meeting of the Committee there would be a review to be carried out in June to ensure the committee comprised a representative mix of stakeholders.
- The committee confirmed that PIRSA should continue to chair future meetings.
- The composition of the Committee will remain with the following adjustments:

John Berger is no longer a landowner but will remain on the committee representing the Murray Mallee Strategic Task Force.

Murray Mallee Soil Conservation Board will no longer exist after June as it will be incorporated within a natural resource management group.

**Action:** Chair to write to the Board and seek the nomination of a suitable soils specialist as representative after the closure of the Board.

Landowners on the Derrick and Balmoral strandlines be invited to submit one nomination from each to sit on the committee.

**Action:** Chair to write to Mike Vowles and David Barr to select representatives with other landowners.

Committee meetings are to be open for the public to observe proceedings. Members of the public may address the Committee through prior arrangement with the Chair. The public is to be informed of the dates of the Committee meetings through the Community newsletter.

## **6 General Business**

- The committee felt it would be appropriate to hold another public meeting after completion of the MARP to inform the public of the current status of the project. AZC believes this would best be timed to follow an announcement by the company on the project go-ahead.  
**Action:** To be placed on Agenda for discussion at the next meeting.
- The first draft of the MARP is expected by the end of June. Committee is seeking input into the finalisation of the document.  
**Action:** PIRSA to approach the Minister seeking consultation with affected landowners prior to approving the MARP.
- An application has been made for infrastructure funding to assist in the provision of power supply to the Mindarie project. Discussions have taken place between ETSA, the Office of Infrastructure Development and MRDB on power route options.
- An application has been made for development approval for the construction of an accommodation camp located at Mindarie. Location

selected primarily due to proximity of power, MSP and central to strandlines.

- The Committee asked for clarification as to the mining of strandlines across the railway line and highway. AZC indicated that this is not currently being contemplated as the use of conveyors is being considered to transport overburden back into the void over the top of the road and rail.

**6 Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held at the East Murray Community Centre @ 10.00am on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2005.

Meeting closed at 12:00 pm.

Signed.....

Chair

Date...../...../.....

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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### **Murray Mallee Community Consultative Committee (Mineral Sands)**

The Committee first met on 24 June 2004 and have continued to meet on a regular basis with meetings be held on the first Wednesday of the months of February, April, June August and October of each year unless it is considered by the members that there are no matters to be updated. This was the case for the meeting set down for April, 2005 and the next meeting was held on 3 June 2005.

With changes within the Mineral Resources Group the new Chair is the Director, Ted Tyne and Ted will continue to Chair the Committee. Membership of the Group has altered from its original composition and now consists of -: PIRSA –2, four landowners – Grant Dixon, Darren Eatts, Kevin Heidrich and Gale Pftizner with a vacancy for a further landowner. Australian Zircon – 2 representatives, District Council of Karoonda East Murray – Mayor and CEO, Regional Development Boards – 1 representative from Riverland and 1 from the Murraylands, Soil Conservation Board – 1 representative invited to attend, Murray Mallee Strategic Task Force – 1 representative, Community representative – vacancy still exists.

As a result of a resolution of the June 2005 meeting one landowner representative from the Derrick Strandline and one from the Balmoral strandline will be invited to attend the meeting.

Discussions at the Committee level on the importance of the Mining And Rehabilitation Program (MARF) and a request was made to Minister Holloway to consult with the affected landowners. It was considered a presentation along with the opportunity for questions would be of benefit to all concerned.

As the Project gains momentum it was felt that a further Public Meeting would assist the public consultation process. It would also provide an opportunity for the Community to be provided with an update from all stakeholders. This is in meeting with the original Terms of Reference established by the Committee.

Development applications have been submitted and approved by the District Council of Karoonda East Murray for the Mineral Separation Plant and the Mining Camp at Mindarie. There have been questions asked as to the location of the Camp at Mindarie but the defining factor leading to that decision was the availability of power. This will now be bought down from Pyap. Further to this was accessibility to the Processing Plant at Mindarie.

The Community is welcome to attend the meetings and the next meeting will be held in the East Murray Area School Community Centre, Wednesday 3 August 2005 @ 10.00 a.m. There is also a Community Representative vacancy that still exists should a member of the Community wish to nominate.