

**Murray Mallee Community Consultative Committee**  
**Summary of Meeting No 9**  
**Held at East Murray Community Centre**  
**10:00 am Wednesday, 21 June 2006**

**Attendees:** Ted Tyne (Mineral Resources Group (MRG)), Garry Wardle (MRG), John Morton (MRG), Hans Bailiht (MRG), Kevin Burdett (Mayor - DCKEM), Peter Smithson (CEO – DCKEM), John Berger (Murray Mallee Strategic Task Force), Damian Berger (Mallee Coorong Natural Resource Management Group), Grant Dixon (landowner), Darren Eatts (landowner), Gale Pfitzner (landowner), Kevin Heidrich (landowner), David Barr (landowner), Gerard Bosch (Australian Zircon NL (AZC)), Steve Wickham (AZC), Peter Woods (Parsons Brinckerhoff), Brian Fullston (landowner), Ann Crouch (landowner), E. F. Francis (landowner), Sue Jettner (landowner from Strathalbyn – as observer).

Ted Tyne, Director – Mineral Resources Group chaired the meeting and welcomed members and observers attending for the first time.

**1 Apologies:** Brenton Lewis (Murraylands Regional Development Board), Mark Bell (Riverland Development Corp).

**2 Minutes and Action Items**

The distributed minutes of the previous meeting of 10 April 2006 were accepted without amendment.

Action Items from the previous meeting.

**1 Mining and Rehabilitation Program**

It was agreed that a hard copy of the main text of the epistle (150 pages), together with a CD of the complete MARP would be distributed to MMCCC members.

A complete hard copy volume would be made available for public viewing at DCKEM offices, with another full copy held at the East Murray Area School.

Copies distributed 6<sup>th</sup> June 2006

**2 Rehabilitation Trials**

AZC are keen to establish another rehabilitation trial “pit” to coincide with the current crop. Details of timing are to be communicated to MMCCC members to allow viewing of operations.

Information on the rehab trial, scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006, distributed to members on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

### **3 Business arising**

The Chair, Ted Tyne, Director – Mineral Resources Group discussed the recent decision of the Minister for Mineral Resources Development to exempt Australian Zircon from payment of the full amount of rent payable on Mineral Leases not currently undertaking commercial mining operations. The rent payable on the aforementioned Mineral Leases is the equivalent to paying the same rental as for a Retention Lease. Information on this decision was posted to all affected landowners on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2006.

Freehold landowners will receive the return of rental payment less 5% for both the full rental and the reduced rate, as per Section 40(2) of the *Mining Act 1970*.

### **4 Draft Mining and Rehabilitation Program**

Discussion followed on various aspects of the Draft MARP. Comments included:

- How long will an active lease be in place? As long as commercial mining operations and use of declared equipment, including for the purpose of rehabilitation are taking place.
- How long will an inactive lease be in place? For the period preceding mining operations and for the period following rehabilitation works and until rehabilitation is considered complete by the Minister and the lease surrendered.
- Will rent be paid on inactive leases? AZC will pay a reduced rental on inactive leases, which will be returned to the freehold owner (less 5%).
- How long will it take to rehab back? AZC made a commitment to continue until the land is returned to its original yield.
- There was concern expressed that the MARP document lacked a commitment to engage with the landowner and PIRSA in reaching solutions to problems and also that there was no mention of conflict resolution processes.
- The MMCCC will be maintained to provide feedback to PIRSA who will utilise regulatory compliance procedures to ensure rehabilitation is carried out to satisfy agreed completion criteria.
- The Company was asked to utilise committee member's expertise in determining criteria for successful rehabilitation of agricultural land and to establish Best Practise management and monitoring procedures.
- MARP Section 4.2 Environmental objectives and targets (p52) - "In addition, the company has committed to the return of farming land to as good or better yielding condition than prior to mining" to include "in conjunction with the landowner and PIRSA." This is also covered in Section 22.2.4 viz "*These criteria will be deemed to be fulfilled by mutual agreement with landholders, or if in dispute by independent measurements and assessment by PIRSA Rural Solutions or another agreed independent assessor*".

- Community Consultation Plan (p129) Another Objective to be included “ To promote informed community understanding of mining operations and the project as a whole”.
- MMCCC meetings to remain bi-monthly unless otherwise determined by the committee.
- Action Item AZC to draft a process based on the Wardens Court determination and distribute to committee members for comment. The process to be utilised in the development of agreed completion criteria for rehabilitation of agricultural land and best practise procedures.
- John Morton – Team Leader, Mine Technical Services MRG briefly discussed the next steps in the MARP review and approval process.
- The Mineral Lease conditions are to be included in the MARP as an Appendix.
- Action Item The Chair asked that any further submissions by committee members on matters pertaining to the MARP be submitted in writing to PIRSA by 7<sup>th</sup> July.

## **5 General Business**

Steve Wickham gave a brief update on the project's progress:

- The Mindarie project is still on track as per the milestones discussed at the last meeting (i.e., ordered long lead items and plant eg D11 dozers, contracted Parsons Brinckerhoff to develop MARP, construction at Mindarie Mineral Separation Plant (MSP) is to commence in July 2006, employment selection for the above is to take place in June 2006, mining to commence in the first quarter of 2007, expected life of project based on current reserves is in excess of 12 years.)
- Samples of ore have been taken from Mindarie A(2) and C for further metallurgical testing.
- Ordering and purchasing of pumps and other equipment is in progress.
- R J Robbins contracted for design/procurement of plant equipment, Parsons Brinckerhoff for infrastructure requirements.
- The construction camp will be located on MSP site – detailed engineering tenders out. AZC will preferentially employ locals (i.e. people living within driving distance of the project) with appropriate skills where possible. Imported specialised labour will be housed in the construction camp.
- The fencing of the MSP area will commence in June-July with earthmoving equipment arriving end of August.
- Provisional Development Consent for the Development Application for the MSP is imminent - awaiting sign off on sealing of Knights Well road. Final Development Approval still requires Building Certification.
- Wet Plant Works Approval application has been lodged with the EPA.

Concern was raised about increased traffic on the railway line and public safety at railway crossings. AZC is to consider.

Action Item A notice calling for nominations for a person representing the community in general to sit on the MMCCC is to be placed in the Council newsletter and in both the Karoonda and Murray Mallee Area schools newsletter.

**6 Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to be held at the East Murray Community Centre @ 10.00am on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2006.

The following meetings will then be held on the first Tuesday of every second month with the exception of December (harvesting). These dates are: 3rd October, 6th February 2007, 3rd April 2007, 5th June 2007, 7th August 2007 and 2nd October 2007.

Signed.....  
Chair

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