

Murray Mallee Community Consultative Committee
Summary of Meeting No 20
Held at East Murray Community Centre
10:00 am Tuesday, 5th August 2008

Attendees:

Garry Wardle (Senior Mining Engineer, MRG), Kevin Burdett (Mayor - DCKEM), Peter Smithson (CEO – DCKEM), Brenton Lewis (Murraylands Regional Development Board), Damian Berger (Mallee Coorong Natural Resource Management Group), E. F. Francis (landowner), Ken Donaldson (GM Operations, Australian Zircon NL (AZC)), Paul Mannix (Environmental Officer, AZC), Serge Caplygin (Program Leader Mining Regulation – MRG), Hans Bailiht (Sen Assessment Officer – MRG), Peter Reilly (Senior Adviser, Technical Support EPA)

1 Apologies:

Ted Tyne (Director – MRG), Gerard Bosch (Manager Exploration, AZC) John Berger (Murray Mallee Strategic Task Force), Adrian Pederick (Member for Hammond), Jim Wilton (CEO, AZC), Trevor Bennett (Riverland Development Corp).

Grant Dixon (landowner), Kevin Heidrich (landowner), Darren Eatts (landowner), Ann Crouch (landowner), David Barr (landowner), Rodney Tonkin (landowner), Gale Pfitzner (landowner).

Garry Wardle chaired the meeting in the absence of Ted Tyne who was interstate promoting South Australia's exploration investment opportunities.

2 Minutes and Action Items

The distributed minutes of the previous meeting (No 19) held 3rd June 2008 were accepted without amendment.

Action Items: None

3 Business arising

The minutes mentioned the suggestion that AZC provide landowners with an information sheet describing the management practices that will be utilised in the rehabilitation of their land. AZC will investigate the provision of this document, utilising Rural Solutions expertise.

4 Project Update

- **Summary of operations**

Ken Donaldson the General Manager – Operations for the Mindarie mine, gave a brief update on the project status including:

- Ken produced a number of graphs showing production is gradually increasing, but it still remains well below the nameplate capacity. Trains are continuing at regular intervals to establish a system of delivering and returning containers.
- It was suggested that McKenzie Transport of Murray Bridge may be a useful contact. They have recently invested in equipment for containerised trucking and are local employers.
- Ken reported the quality of products produced at the MSP was good and they are concentrating on producing a primary grade zircon and secondary zircon. The classification is dependent on the amount of contaminants in the product (mainly TiO₂).
- AZC now employs 108 permanent employees, mainly from the Mindarie – Loxton area. The Karoonda Hotel is at full capacity hosting a number of contractors. Wanbi Hotel is currently closed while carrying out renovations aimed at providing increased services to the area.
- It was reported unemployment in the DCKEM area is currently at 1% (practically full employment).
- A new Acting Maintenance Manager has been appointed who has been actively involved in sourcing engineering services from the Murray Bridge area.
- Vale Engineering, Horwood Bagshaw and Bowhill Engineering have collaborated on the provision of engineering services to AZC and it is anticipated this collaboration will lead to further opportunities.
- AZC are contemplating the provision of a bus shuttle service to and from Loxton for employees at end of shift. Peter Smithson chairs Murray Mallee Transport Advisory Committee. The Regional Development Board may be able to access funds to assist in the area of training.
- **Approvals outstanding**

MRG are currently compliance auditing the Mindarie A2 MARP to ensure any outstanding issues are remediated and incorporated in the new Mindarie C MARP.

- **Environment / Safety incidents**

Paul Mannix, Environmental Officer – AZC, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the environment & safety incidents.

- It has been 447 days since a lost time injury occurred at the minesite.
- The mining pit has progressed across Knight's Well Road and the road reinstated according to DCKEM specifications and is now open. The road reserve has been replanted utilising trees grown seed harvested from the road verge and propagated by Greening Australia. Students from the East Murray Area School as part of a horticultural project

helped to plant the trees. The East Murray Area School students have also taken cuttings of ground cover vegetation for further planting together with some native grasses to stabilise the soil.

- The eastern end of the strandline (10ha) has now been rehabilitated and seeded by the landowner. Gypsum was placed on the returned overburden at the rate of 10 tonnes/ha then ripped and prickle chained to mix the gypsum prior to covering with subsoil. The subsoil was then ripped and grader boarded to provide a smooth surface for the topsoil. Fertiliser was added at a rate of 100kg/ha DAP and 5% Zinc as per Rural Solutions recommendations. This was then sown with rye at 150 mm spacing to provide a vegetative cover to stabilise the soil.
- The question was raised as to whether germination testing of the seed used will be carried out to determine the expected number of shoots per m² for a successful result. Advice will be sought from Rural Solutions on this matter.
- When a crop is planted there will be yield tests taken from areas that were mined and compared with samples from areas not mined. Rural Solutions will carry out this task. AZC will also take soil samples on areas of poor yield and GPS them for further evaluation.

5 General Business

It was suggested that residue from the Bolivar treatment plant may be incorporated with the fertiliser and gypsum to provide a source of organic carbon for plant growth. AZC will need to discuss this with landowners and also determine the composition of organic material for potential heavy minerals etc.

The Murraylands regional Development Board has been actively involved in delivering a broadband service to the Murray & Mallee area, which is reputed to be the worst in the State. They have two expressions of interest in the provision of infrastructure and are investigating the provision of State and Federal funding for this provision. It was suggested that Paul Musket the Regional Project Manager – Broadband be invited to address the next meeting of the MMCCC on this issue.

6 Action Items

- AZC will investigate the provision of an information sheet to landowners describing the management practices utilised in the rehabilitation of their land.

7 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held at the East Murray Community Centre @ 10.00am on Tuesday, 7th October 2008.

Signed.....

Chair

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