

Murray Mallee Community Consultative Committee
Summary of Meeting No 21
Held at East Murray Community Centre
10:00 am Tuesday, 7th October 2008

Attendees:

Ted Tyne (Director – Mineral Resources Group), Garry Wardle (Senior Mining Engineer, MRG), Kevin Burdett (Mayor - DCKEM), Peter Smithson (CEO – DCKEM), Brenton Lewis (Murraylands Regional Development Board), Adrian Pederick (Member for Hammond), Kevin Heidrich (landowner), Ken Donaldson (GM Operations, Australian Zircon NL (AZC)), Paul Mannix (Environmental Officer, AZC), Paul Muskett (Regional Project Manager-Broadband).

1 Apologies:

Grant Dixon (landowner), John Berger (Murray Mallee Strategic Task Force).

Trevor Bennett (Riverland Development Corp), Damian Berger (Mallee Coorong Natural Resource Management Group), E. F. Francis (landowner), Darren Eatts (landowner), Ann Crouch (landowner), David Barr (landowner), Rodney Tonkin (landowner), Gale Pfitzner (landowner).

Ted Tyne chaired the meeting and welcomed Paul Muskett, Regional Project Manager – Broadband with the Murraylands Regional Development Board. Ted also congratulated Adrian Pederick on his elevation in the Shadow Ministry to the Shadow Minister for The River Murray | Sustainability & Climate Change | Agriculture, Food & Fisheries | Forests.

2 Minutes and Action Items

The distributed minutes of the previous meeting (No 20) held 5th August 2008 were accepted without amendment.

Action Items:

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

AZC will provide each landowner with a land management plan detailing the rehabilitation that has been carried out on the land and also containing best practice advice on the further management of the land, for example fertiliser addition, stocking rates etc. This will be generated in conjunction with PIRSA Rural Solutions.

3 Business arising

AZC is drafting a Community Newsletter, which is due for release in mid October.

4 Provision of broadband services to the Murray Mallee.

Paul Muskett spoke to the meeting on the Broadband Development project. This project has been developed in partnership between the Murraylands Regional Development Board, Riverland Development Corporation and the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association and is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the Clever Networks Program.

The Project Manager is based in the Murray Bridge office of the Murraylands Regional Development Board. The projects main objectives are: to support the implementation of a range of infrastructure projects by raising awareness of the benefits of broadband services, to run information sessions and workshops to raise awareness of broadband technology and its potential uses for both home and business, to improve community understanding of broadband technology/applications, to support the Indigenous, migrant and remote communities to increase the uptake of broadband services, to offer advice and facilitation, as required, to potential buyers in negotiations with Broadband suppliers to meet their specific requirements, to identify priority areas and opportunities for new and/or improved broadband services and to support broadband infrastructure and network rollout.

AZC are working to get provision of coverage for their own line to the minesite through existing towers. This will enable some community benefit by the provision of extra broadband communication.

5 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 several graphs showing that production is gradually increasing, but it still remains below the nameplate capacity.
- 155 containers were shipped last month, by far the best production since operations commenced, but still short of the 200 containers per month target.
- Ken reported they are achieving better recoveries from the Mineral Separation Plant following work carried out to dewater the MSP feed by vacuum and draining.
- AZC have commenced the provision of a bus shuttle service to and from Loxton for employees at shift changeover.

- **Environment / Safety incidents**

Paul Mannix, Environmental Officer – AZC, tabled a handout summarising the environment & safety incidents.

- There were 4 environmental incidents for the month, including oil spills and wind erosion of the MSP waste (now contained by drift fencing).
- A contractor suffered a hand injury and required hospital treatment, this was reported to WorkCover.
- Some 200 metres of mined land has been rehabilitated and sown with a cover crop of rye. Some topsoil and subsoil stockpiles have also been planted out with rye (carried out by “Fudd” Francis).
- A procedure has been implemented following a tailings dam breach (which occurred 23 March 2008) requiring daily inspection and recording of water level.
- The use of recycled water has improved requiring the use of less bore water – only 20% of water licence allocation has been used to date.

6 General Business

The question was asked if there were bonds on the leases.

Eight Mineral Leases have been granted to AZC. “Mindarie A2”, currently being mined, has a Rehabilitation Bond of \$1.4m, of which \$700,000 has been collected and \$700,000 is now due. The Bond is meant to reflect the outstanding liability to the State should the project fail and the State left to complete the rehabilitation.

When the Mining and Rehabilitation Program (MARP) for the next strandline, “Mindarie C” is approved, a Bond will be calculated and requested for that Lease. As rehabilitation is completed on Mindarie A2 the amount of that Bond may be reduced. The Bond can be held until the Minister for Mineral Resources Development determines there is no outstanding rehabilitation liability.

Action Item: Mineral Resources Group to talk on Rehabilitation Bonds and the Wardens Court Bond at the next meeting.

Following the resignation of Grant Dixon a vacancy now exists on the Committee. It was agreed that PIRSA and AZC should discuss this and advertise for a landowner holding land on which mining will take place, or an adjacent landowner, that is interested in filling this vacancy. The best place appears to be the AZC Community Newsletter, due out in October.

7 Action Items

Action Item: Mineral Resources Group to talk on Rehabilitation Bonds and the Wardens Court Bond at the next meeting.

Action Item: Notice to be inserted in AZC's Community Newsletter advertising for a landowner to fill the vacancy on the Committee.

8 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held at the East Murray Community Centre @ 10.00am on Tuesday, 3rd February 2009.

Signed.....

Chair

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