

MINUTES

Sunrise Energy Metals Community Consultative Committee



sunrise
energy metals

	Community Consultative Committee	Meeting Date: Commenced:	28 July 2021 10:03am
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews (LA) [online]		
Member Attendees: (In person)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor John Medcalf – Lachlan Shire Council representative (JM)• Cr. Mark Hall, Lachlan Shire Council representative (MH)• Cr. Graeme Miller, Forbes Shire Council representative (GM)• Ally Coe, Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation (AC)• Des Ward, Community Representative (DW)• Mike Wood – Sunrise Regional Manager (MW)• Bronwyn Flynn – Sunrise Environment, Approvals and Community Lead (BF)		
Member Attendees: (Online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor Ken Keith – Parkes Shire Council representative (KK)• Deputy Mayor Barbara Newton – Parkes Shire Council representative (BN)• Cr Alan Ward – Parkes Shire Council representative (AW)• Narelle Sunderland, Community representative (NS)• Helen Quade, Community representative & Trundle CCC alternate (HQ)• John Lagerlow, Trundle CCC representative (JL)• Laurie Hutchison – Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation (LH)• Sam Riggall – Sunrise Energy Metals Chief Executive Officer (SR)		
Invited Guests:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lucas Burns – Environmental Consultant, Resource Strategies (LB)		
Venue:	Council Chambers, Lachlan Shire Council Offices		
Minute takers:	Bronwyn Flynn, Mike Wood		
Close:	11:53am		

1. Welcome & Introductions

Independent Chairperson, Lisa Andrews welcomed all members and guests to the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) extraordinary meeting, the purpose of which was to discuss the Modification 7 application, which was currently on exhibition with DPIE. LA acknowledged those in the Lachlan Shire Council Committee Room and those participating via Microsoft Teams. LA introduced Lucas Burns from Resources Strategies who would be assisting the SEM team with any questions today on the Mod.

2. Apologies

Cr Steve Kariatiana – Forbes Shire Council, Cr Dennis Brady – Condobolin Chamber of Commerce, Geoff Rice – Parkes Chamber of Commerce (GR)

3. Declarations

LA declared that she is an Independent Chairperson, appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and engaged by Sunrise Energy Metals to chair this CCC meeting.

LA reminded all committee members to ensure their declarations are kept up to date

4. Business Arising from previous minutes

LA confirmed that the minutes from the 28 April 2021 meeting were finalised and a copy emailed to members 19 May 2021.

Action Items:

1. Provide the PowerPoint presentation to LA for distribution to the committee members.
Complete, sent with final minutes on 19/5/21.
2. Provide the new community contact email address to Lisa for distribution to the committee members. **Complete, sent with final minutes on 19/5/21.**

5. Correspondence Report as emailed 26/7/21

- 12/5/21 – Email to members with the draft minutes from the 28/4/21 meeting.
- 19/5/21 – Email to DPIE with chair’s CCC annual report for 2020-21.
- 19/5/21 - Email to CCC members with the finalised minutes & contact details.
- 14/7/21 – Email to CCC members regarding Mod 7 and extraordinary meeting proposed for 28/7/21 (to be confirmed)
- 23/7/21 - Email to members with the meeting notice, agenda and correspondence report.
- 26/7/21 – Email to members with the reminder for this meeting.
- 27/7/21 – Email to members advising that the Mod documents were available on the DPIE major projects website for viewing.

6. Project Execution Plan Modification – Sunrise Energy Metals

Outcomes of the Project Execution Plan Modification [Mod 7] – Bronwyn Flynn

BF provided the CCC with an update on the Project Execution Plan Modification (currently on exhibition), sharing the outcomes of the Modification including:

- An overview of the Project Execution Plan (PEP) Modification was provided to the committee. During the detailed PEP process, a number of gaps were identified where the Project differed from current approvals. The company is seeking approval for the identified project changes via an application to modify the Project Development Consent under the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act. The Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) would be the determining authority.
- The proposed changes were described and discussed and include changes relating to the mine site, processing plant, accommodation camp, rail interchange and road transport.
- Mine site changes include:
 - Revised mine infrastructure area layout
 - Changes to the mining production schedule
 - A new construction laydown area
 - Additional site access point at the process plant
 - Relocated and resized evaporation pond
 - Revised construction sequencing associated with the tailings storage facility and southern diversion channel.
- Process plant changes include:
 - Reduction of the acid plant stack height from 80m to 40m
 - Increased number of backup power generators.
- Accommodation camp changes relate to an increased construction phase capacity to 1,900 personnel.
- Rail siding changes include:
 - Revised location for the rail siding to approximately 500m south of the currently approved location
 - Addition of an ammonium sulphate storage and distribution facility to the rail siding.
- Road transport changes relate to the volume of construction and operational phase deliveries.
- A Modification Report has been prepared for the modification and is supported by the following specialist studies:
 - Air Quality Assessment
 - Noise Assessment

- Surface Water Assessment
- Road Transport Assessment
- Preliminary Hazard Analysis
- Biodiversity Review (rail siding only)
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (rail siding only)
- Land Contamination Assessment (rail siding only)
- Social Impact Review

Air Quality Assessment

- The Air Quality Assessment was prepared by Jacobs in accordance with the NSW Environment Protection Authority's Approved Methods
- The modelling undertaken used data from the on-site meteorological station
- A number of modelling scenarios were run, including worst case construction and operational scenarios at both the mine site and rail siding
- Modelling found that no exceedances of the relevant air quality criteria were predicted, including:
 - Dust parameters (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, depositional dust and total suspended particulates)
 - Gaseous emissions (SO₂, CO, NO₂, H₂SO₄ and volatile organic compounds).

Noise Assessment

- The Noise Assessment was prepared by Renzo Tonin in accordance with the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (NPfI)
- The modelling undertaken used data from the on-site meteorological station
- Adverse meteorological conditions were considered in accordance with the NPfI, including temperature inversion and noise enhancing winds in the evening
- A number of modelling scenarios were run, including worst case construction and operational scenarios at both the mine site and rail siding
- Modelling found that no exceedances of the relevant noise criteria were predicted at the rail siding
- Exceedances of the noise criteria were predicted surrounding the mine site during the operations phase, including:
 - Negligible exceedance (1-2dB over the criteria) at five receivers – Rose Hill, Glenburn, Slapdown, Brooklyn & Abandoned 2
 - Moderate exceedance (up to 5dB over the criteria) at two receivers – Currajong Park 1 & 2
- Residences in the moderate exceedance zone would be afforded noise mitigation measures upon request in accordance with the NSW Government's Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy
- A number of reasonable and feasible noise reduction measures have been committed to by SEM including restricting operations of the mining fleet in the evening during adverse meteorological conditions.

Surface Water Assessment

- The existing site water balance was updated by Hydro Engineering & Consulting to incorporate the Modification
- No overflows are predicted from the tailings storage facility or other mine water storages over the life of the modified Project
- Predicted average and maximum annual off-site requirements for the Project would not significantly change as a result of the modification.

Road Transport Assessment

- The Road Transport Assessment was prepared by The Transport Planning Partnership
- Construction and operational phase traffic was assessed, with key findings including:
 - Construction phase traffic would significantly reduce as a result of the introduction of shuttle buses for the construction workforce

- Operations phase traffic would generally be unchanged
- Truck traffic during construction and operations in the Trundle main street would reduce
- No significant impacts identified to road performance, capacity, efficiency or safety arising as a result of the modification
- The assessment also concluded that the road and intersection upgrades identified in the Development Consent and Voluntary Planning Agreement are appropriate for the modification, noting the approved upgrade to Scotson Lane would be extended to the modified rail siding access point
- The road maintenance contributions required for the Project are also considered appropriate for the modification
- Road noise was also assessed in accordance with the NSW Government's Road Noise Policy, with no exceedances of the road noise criteria predicted.

Preliminary Hazard Assessment

- The Preliminary Hazard Assessment was prepared by Pinnacle Risk Management, and undertook a risk-based assessment of credible events with the potential for off-site impacts
- The assessment concluded the modified Project is compliant with all NSW Government risk criteria
- Pre-construction and pre-commissioning hazard studies are to be completed and submitted to the DPIE for approval.

Biodiversity Review (Rail Siding Only)

- The potential biodiversity impacts associated with the modified rail siding were assessed
- Overall, there will be a reduction in clearance of native vegetation between the currently approved rail siding and the modified rail siding
- Therefore, no increase in impacts on biodiversity values is expected
- The NSW Regulator (Biodiversity, Conservation & Science Directorate) has agreed with this conclusion.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (Rail Siding Only)

- The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment was prepared by Landskape in accordance with relevant Heritage NSW guidelines
- A survey of the modified rail siding location was undertaken in February 2021 in consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties
- No Aboriginal Heritage sites were recorded
- The draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report was provided to the Registered Aboriginal Parties for comment.

Social Impact Review

- The Social Impact Review was prepared by Square Peg Social Performance and includes an updated characterisation of the existing social environment; an overview of consultation undertaken with the three shire Councils; identification and assessment of potential incremental social impacts associated with the modification; and a review of the approved mitigation measures
- The Social Impact Review identified the modification would have some positive social impacts (eg creation of additional employment and business opportunities during the construction phase)
- Potential negative social impacts would be low significance (e.g. demand for housing during the initial construction period prior to the accommodation camp coming online).

- The Modification Report was submitted to the DPIE on 30th June and is currently on public exhibition until 9th July.

Q & A relating to the Project Execution Plan Modification

DW asked: Regarding the Wilmatha Road upgrade, would this take into account the new entrance and exit locations to the plant site?

BF responded: Yes, the Wilmatha Road upgrade would include the additional entry and exit points.

HQ asked: What construction activities are required at the limestone quarry at Westella?

BF & MW responded: General plant and equipment for processing limestone (eg crushers, mobile plant, buildings etc).

BN asked: If rail crossings will be upgraded & mentioned if visibility at some rail crossings could be improved.

BF responded: This was considered as part of the road transport assessment, with the rail crossings deemed to be appropriate for the forecast levels of road and rail traffic. Rail crossings were a topical item and had also been raised by Transport for NSW.

LB added: The approved Traffic Management Plan requires SEM to notify the community about Project-related traffic impacts. In accordance with this requirement, SEM could notify landholders in the region that trains associated with the Project would be commencing.

KK asked: What is the predicted market for local ammonium sulphate distribution?

MW responded: The predicted local market was a consideration in establishing an ammonium sulphate storage and distribution facility at the rail siding and a logistics study had been completed. Ammonium sulphate is a fertilizer used in the agricultural sector.

KK asked: Are there any changes to the Parkes operations centre as part of the Project modification?

MW responded: No, this modification has no impact on the Parkes operations centre for the Project.

DW asked: SEM has construction happening in conjunction with road upgrades, what would the impact be on construction and local traffic?

BF responded: Yes, there are some parallel construction activities that are unavoidable, and this is due to some road upgrades needing to be completed as construction of the processing facility is completed.

HQ asked: When is mitigation required for noise impacts?

BF responded: Noise mitigation rights will be provided to the two residences identified in the noise modelling as being in the moderate exceedance zone. The change to impacted properties as a result of this modification, is due largely to changes to the proposed mining fleet. In addition, there's been a change to the NSW Government policy regarding noise modelling methodology since Modification 4.

DW asked: How is noise monitoring carried out and why isn't it continuous at nearby properties?

BF responded: Noise monitoring will be undertaken on a quarterly basis by a noise specialist. The monitoring will be conducted with that specialist in attendance – referred to as “attended” monitoring. This is explained in the approved Noise Management Plan for the Project, and is undertaken at various times of the day (eg daytime, evening and night). Results of the noise monitoring will be made public on the SEM website and compared to the relevant noise criteria.

LB added: The nature of the operations at the mine site at the time of monitoring is also provided to the noise specialist so they are aware what equipment was operating during the monitoring period.

MH asked: What is the likelihood that noise monitoring is conducted at the modelled conditions when noise impact at neighbouring properties may be a problem?

BF response: Explained that noise monitoring was conducted at all different times of the day (including evening and night) where a temperature inversion during the cooler months was likely to occur when monitoring was being carried out.

DW asked: Regarding the change to the evaporation pond, has soil permeability testing been completed on the water storage dam / evaporation ponds areas? If not, why not and if so, I'd like a copy of the results

BF responded: I would have to take this question on notice and come back to you with an answer.

BF response following CCC: SEM has a number of reports from specialist consultants that would need to be reviewed to confirm this query. Notwithstanding, the Development Consent (Schedule 3, Condition 29) requires that the Project comply with a number of water management performance measures at the mine water storages (eg evaporation pond, water storage dam and tailings storage facility), including to line these facilities to minimise seepage.

JL asked: Regarding traffic noise in Trundle, will this be monitored at night?

BF responded: I would have to take this question on notice and come back to you with a response.

BF response following CCC: Road noise was assessed for the Modification and the predicted road noise levels in Trundle are within the relevant criteria in the NSW Government's Road Noise Policy. Consistent with the approved Project, no road noise monitoring is therefore proposed.

BN asked: What does the rating of "low significance" regarding housing demand mean?

BF responded: There is a period of approximately six months at the commencement of construction where early construction workers would need to be accommodated in the local community (ie the accommodation camp won't have first rooms available until approximately month seven). These workers would be housed in a number of different locations including Condobolin, Parkes and Forbes - where the early work fronts are spread out across the water pipeline, camp construction and civil works.

DW asked: Why was the acid plant stack height reduced?

BF, MW & SR Responded: While the stack height reduction provided a cost saving to the Project, the visual amenity was a key consideration in terms of the stack being visible a long distance from the Project. Acid plant technology has also improved significantly since the taller 80m stack was first approved, with improvements in gas scrubbing and cleaning to minimize gases from the stack. Modelling of a 40m stack has shown the expected levels at sensitive receiver sites were well below the required limits.

DW asked: Limestone quality from Westella, isn't it low?

SR responded: Limestone grades at Westella were low and we have a third party limestone supply also approved as part of the Project to supplement limestone from Westella.

HQ asked: What is the status of the water pipeline approval?

BF responded: The Councils have issued a s138 Roads Act approval for the water pipeline within the road reserves. SEM are currently working through the lease agreement that will accompany that approval.

Other Q & A relating to the presentation

KK asked: Any updates on financing for the project?

SR responded: There are a number of leads. SEM are currently working through a number of financing options and engaging with a range of potential investors. The market is looking positive with nickel at a seven year high, so investors are turning their attention back to Projects like Sunrise. However, SEM are unable to give a clear view on when the Project will be financed.

7. Community questions

Nil community questions were received.

8. General Business

Nil.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting date is scheduled for Wednesday 1 December 2021. Venue and commencement time to be confirmed.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Provide the PowerPoint presentation to LA for distribution to the committee members. (Complete – sent to members 29/7/21.)	BF
2	Provide a response to questions taken on notice. (Complete – included in the minutes.)	BF