

# MINUTES

Sunrise Energy Metals  
Community Consultative Committee (CCC)



	Community Consultative Committee	Meeting Date: Commenced:	3 June 2025 1:40pm
Independent Chairperson:	David Ross (DR)		
Member Attendees: (In person)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cr Steve Karaitiana – Forbes Shire Council representative (SK)</li><li>• Narelle Sunderland – Community representative (NS)</li><li>• Des Ward – Community representative (DW)</li><li>• Helen Quade – Trundle CCC representative (HQ)</li><li>• Sam Riggall – Sunrise Energy Metals Chief Executive Officer (SR)</li><li>• Mike Wood – Sunrise Regional Manager (MW)</li><li>• Bronwyn Flynn – Sunrise Environment, Approvals and Community Lead (BF)</li></ul>		
Apologies:	Cr Neil Westcott, Cr Bill Jayet, Denis Brady, Cr Paul Phillips, Cr Megan Mortimer, Ally Coe, Vicki Swadling, Geoff Rice		
Venue:	Council Chambers, Lachlan Shire Council Offices		
Minute takers:	Bronwyn Flynn		
Close:	2:52 pm		

## 1. Welcome & Introductions

David Ross welcomed all members to the CCC meeting.

## 2. Pecuniary Interests

DR declared that he is not paid to chair the committee, appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

NS declared that her daughter was currently employed by Sunrise.

## 3. Business Arising from previous minutes

DW stated that BF had not provided information regarding the borefield from the previous meeting. DR asked BF to provide that information in the next two weeks.

Members agreed that the minutes from the previous meeting were an appropriate reflection of what was discussed.

Action Items:

1. BF to provide DW with information regarding borefield.

## 4. Correspondence Report

Relevant local, state and federal government correspondence is included as a slide within the powerpoint presentation.

DR also reminded members that BF had recently sent a link to CCC members to access a recent episode of Channel 7's Spotlight program where they investigated the nickel industry in Indonesia and Australia.

## 5. Sunrise Project Update - Presentation

### *Finance Update – Sam Riggall*

There is limited funding for new nickel-cobalt development in the current market. Accordingly, work on the Sunrise Nickel Cobalt Project has been scaled back, with priority now turning to scandium.

A Feasibility Study for the Syerston Scandium Project was completed in 2016. The project scope is far smaller than the nickel-cobalt development, assuming a stand-alone scandium mine and processing facility at the mine site processing c. 65ktpa of ore. The Company's autoclaves currently stored in South Australia will not be required for a project of this scale. Similarly, the water and power requirements for the Project are far smaller than the nickel-cobalt development.

The project did not advance in 2016 due to both the relatively small size of the market, and the prospect of generating by-product scandium as part of the nickel-cobalt development.

Markets for scandium include solid oxide fuel cells, hydrogen electrolyzers, aluminium alloys and semiconductors used in radio frequency filtering.

Syerston benefits from some extremely high scandium concentrations in the ore. The Company is updating the 2016 Feasibility Study, with new results to be presented to the market around the end of Q3 2025.

Scandium was one of the rare earth elements recently subject to export controls by China and hence there is a strong focus, particularly in the United States, on developing new sources of supply.

### *Q & A relating to this update*

**HQ asked:** You will have to have a garage sale?

**SR replied:** We have some equipment that is in storage for the Nickel Cobalt project. We'll retain this equipment as the storage costs aren't too high and wait and see when the Nickel and Cobalt markets improve.

**DW asked:** Are you still proposing for the borefield to be the source of water?

**SR replied:** Yes we are. However, it will likely be a much smaller water requirement, with a much smaller pipe diameter. The Nickel Cobalt Project required approximately 100L/s, whereas the Scandium Project is more likely to need approximately 7L/s.

### *Sunrise Regional Update – Mike Wood*

MW provided the CCC with an update on the activities undertaken in the region since the June 2024 meeting:

- Major Project Status renewed
  - Sunrise was granted Major Project Status in December 2021, and provides fast-tracked approvals at a federal level for a period of three years
  - As the Major Project Status expired in December 2024, SEM applied for renewal with this being subsequently granted in February 2025
  - SEM meets with the Major Projects Facilitation Agency on a quarterly basis
- Mineral Exploration
  - Surface sampling and mapping has been undertaken at EL9627 (Hunters) and EL9598 (Gleninga South) exploring for limestone

- The Resources Regulator completed a desktop compliance audit of the Boona Gap tenement in March 2025 against the Exploration code of practice for Community Consultation, with no non-compliances identified during the audit

### ***Syerston Scandium Project – Mike Wood***

MW provided the CCC with an update on the activities undertaken in the region since the June 2024 meeting:

- Described what scandium is and its uses
- Introduced the Syerston Scandium Project
  - A feasibility study for a standalone Scandium Project was completed in 2016 and a start up scandium phase was approved as part of Mod 3 in 2017
  - Feasibility study is currently in the process of being reviewed and updated
- Scandium drilling on ML1770
  - 125 Reverse circulation (RC) test holes were approved by the Resources Regulator
  - Drilling targeting high grade scandium zones was undertaken over three weeks, with samples sent to the laboratory
  - Rehabilitation has commenced

### ***Q & A relating to this update***

**DW asked:** Will you still have the HPAL (High Pressure Acid Leach)?

**SR replied:** Yes, however it will only have one small autoclave.

**DW asked:** So will you have to resubmit this Project for approval?

**BF replied:** The Scandium Project was approved back in 2017 as part of Mod 3, so it is essentially approved, however we are in the process of determining whether there is anything different that may not be approved. And if so, we may need to prepare a Modification for approval by DPHI.

**DW asked:** You will still have to build a tailings dam, just smaller?

**SR replied:** Yes, that's right. Others are looking at backfilling pits, and that could be an option. However, backfilling may need further approvals.

**SK asked:** What sort of employee numbers would there be for the Scandium Project?

**SR replied:** The Nickel Cobalt Project had approximately 360 employees, whereas the Scandium Project would possibly be around 40.

**DW asked:** The Scandium Project would be run locally rather than at a central operations centre?

**SR replied:** Yes, that's right.

**SR stated:** Sunrise did a fair bit of limestone exploration in the past few years, however we didn't find much high quality material – we were hoping to be able to take a large number of trucks off the road by sourcing limestone closer to Fifield.

**MW added:** The Hunters tenement is somewhat prospective for limestone, however the focus now has largely shifted to scandium.

### ***Community Update – Bronwyn Flynn***

BF provided the CCC with an update on community relations activities since the June 2024 meeting:

- A site visit for CCC members was held in September 2024 – members were shown around the site including the future processing plant and mining pit areas, tailings storage facility location, air quality monitors and groundwater monitoring locations
- Sunrise Energy Metals supported the Trundle Back in Time event again on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025

- Supported the 2024 local agricultural shows, and preparing to support the 2025 including Tullamore, Trundle, Bedgerabong, Parkes, Condobolin and Forbes
- Sunrise Energy Metals once again attended the NSW Minerals Council careers night in Parkes on 19<sup>th</sup> March with approximately 80 Year 10-12 high school students and their parents/teachers in attendance
- Presented the Nickel Cobalt Project and Scandium Project at the AUSIMM Central West Minerals Forum in Dubbo in November 2024
- The Parkes and Condobolin shopfronts are open – members of the community can visit on the first and third Tuesday (Condobolin) and Thursday (Parkes) of the month
- No community complaints have been received so far this year – there is a complaints register published on our website

### Q & A relating to this update

**SK asked:** With only 40 people, are you still going to house them out there?

**MW replied:** We are still updating the feasibility study and this will take into account the best accommodation options for both the construction and operations phases of the project.

**DR mentioned:** With the link to the 2024 Annual Review in the presentation, could you please put the link into the minutes, or maybe through Bitly?

**BF replied:** Link to 2024 Annual Review:

[www.sunriseem.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2024-Sunrise-Project-Annual-Review\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.sunriseem.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2024-Sunrise-Project-Annual-Review_FINAL.pdf)

**BF added:** DW, I owe yourself and NS some groundwater data from monitoring undertaken on your properties.

**DW replied:** Yes, I was going to ask for that.

**HQ asked:** The 132kV ETL is not for the Scandium Project?

**MW replied:** No, that's right. It's only needed for the Nickel Cobalt Project.

**DW asked:** That first 40km of the 132kV ETL, is that the one they're constructing now?

**MW replied:** No, that one is for the Quorn Park Solar Farm just west of Parkes.

**HQ asked:** The first 40km of the 132kV ETL between Parkes and Trundle..... does your proposal include the removal of the existing powerline?

**MW replied:** Yes, however this is only required for the Sunrise Nickel Cobalt project and not for the Syerston Scandium project.

**HQ asked:** When you're replacing new for old, how close can you be to the existing ETL?

**MW replied:** The safe working distance from the existing 66kV ETL and the new 132kV ETL is 25m.

**DW asked:** Will the 132kV ETL be built for the Scandium Project?

**MW replied:** No, this is not required for the Syerston Scandium project.

**HQ asked:** So, the 132kV ETL wouldn't be built at all?

**MW replied:** It wouldn't be built for the Scandium Project.

**HQ asked:** So, no new ETL for the Scandium Project?

**MW replied:** We are looking at options for power supply for the Scandium Project including grid supply from existing networks in the area.

**DW asked:** What is the capacity of the existing powerline?

**MW replied:** The existing powerline that runs through the mining lease is 22kV, however for the Scandium Project there may be the need for some upstream modifications.

**HQ asked:** So, the oversize transport route would not be required for the Scandium Project?

**MW replied:** While we are still completing the feasibility study for the Scandium Project, we believe it is unlikely that the oversized transport route would be required due to the much smaller size of equipment being used when compared with the Nickel Cobalt Project.

**HQ asked:** You said 100L/s of water for the Nickel Cobalt Project, down to 7L/s for the Scandium Project – is that 24/7?

**SR replied:** Yes, that's right. They 7L/s is based on the 2016 feasibility study, so this will be revised. However, we don't expect it to change substantially.

**HQ asked:** Regarding the CLALC, and Crown Land.... Is that a long process?

**BF replied:** Yes it is, so essentially we require an agreement with the CLALC in order to have a Crown Land licence issued for our infrastructure on Crown Land (as CLALC has Aboriginal Land Claims over some parcels of Crown Land). And yes, it is a very long process.

**BF mentioned:** DR, you asked about State approvals for the Scandium Project..... and I don't have a specific answer for you on that just yet. We're working through the project description to determine exactly what might be different to the approved project. And following that, we will know whether we require a modification or not.

**DR mentioned:** There is a requirement for the company to prepare environmental management plans (EMPs), and some of those EMPs are required to be prepared in consultation with the CCC. There may be a few options whether this project is considered a major project or not.

#### ***Environmental Management Update – Bronwyn Flynn***

- Environmental monitoring at the Sunrise Project is continuing in line with the Project Development Consent and Environmental Protection Licence, including:
  - Dust (depositional and particulate matter monitoring [PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>])
  - Surface water (only two sampling events since our last meeting, and they were in November and December 2024)
  - Groundwater monitoring (six monthly onsite and borefield monitoring) – completed in December 2024, next round scheduled for June 2025
  - Meteorological monitoring continuing at the weather station

#### ***Environmental Approvals Update – Bronwyn Flynn & Mike Wood***

- SEM has completed annual project reporting to the Government, including the Annual Return to the NSW EPA and the 2024 Annual Review to the DPHI. The 2024 Annual Review is now up on our website.
- 132kV Electrical Transmission Line (ETL):
  - Power systems studies completed to meet AEMP and Network Service Providers requirements
  - The first 40km of the ETL will replace the existing 66kV supply line to Trundle with a dual 132/66kV line
  - A licence application for Crown Land access along the corridor is underway
  - Landholder easement discussions are continuing
- Water Pipeline Approvals:
  - The Crown Lands licence and easement application is progressing
- Oversize Transport Route:
  - Designs for civil and electrical route modifications completed mid 2024
  - Approvals for route modifications to be progressed once project funding timeline is known
  - Crown Land licence progressing

## Q & A relating to this update

**DW asked:** Could you please put a link to Mod 3 in the minutes?

**BF replied:** Link to Mod 3 below:

[www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mod-3-scandium-oxide-production](http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mod-3-scandium-oxide-production)

**DW asked:** What is your timeline for coming up with an answer [on proceeding with the Scandium Project]?

**SR replied:** We'll need to complete the new mineral resource estimate, revise the mine plan, look into costs – capex and opex, and update the feasibility by the end of Q3. We are focused on offtake discussions.

**DW asked:** Do you think you will be competitive with the Chinese?

**SR replied:** We are confident that Syerston will produce low-cost scandium, but the risk always is that Chinese suppliers will price below western supply (even at a loss). A project like Syerston will need strong customer support and a willingness by governments to enforce trade policies to ensure a level playing field.

## 6. Community questions

**DR asked:** What's the big thing you've heard today?

**HQ replied:** The Scandium Project would be more suitable in the context..... less drawing on the surrounding resources.

**DW asked:** Sam, you must be disappointed?

**SR replied:** No, not at all. We've been at this for a long time, and we need to accept that these are challenging markets. But they are important markets, and we hope that developments like Syerston, although small, help NSW to develop a mining industry that is responsive to, and focused on, key technology markets.

**DW asked:** Do you see both local projects being viable?

**SR replied:** Building a scandium mine should not impact the ability to develop the nickel-cobalt resource. However, we wouldn't consider developing them together.

**HQ mentioned:** I watched the investor webcast, and how you explain the science and describe it is quite impressive. It was really easy to understand.

**SR replied:** I am glad you found it useful. What scandium can do in these advanced technology applications is amazing.

**SK asked:** What happened to the autoclaves?

**SR replied:** We still have them in Port Pirie. We could possibly sell them, but the storage costs aren't too high. I think we'll wait to see how the market develops before we do anything with the autoclaves.

## 7. General Business

No general business.

## 8. Next meeting

The next meeting is proposed following release of the updated feasibility study, potentially end of November or early December 2025.

Time and location to be confirmed closer to the date.

Meeting was closed at 2:52pm.

### ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	BF to provide DW with information regarding borefield.	BF

**NB:** Following the meeting, the 2024 minutes were reviewed, discussion held between BF and DR and found there was no action to provide further borefield information to the CCC beyond the 2024 CCC discussion regarding pump testing of the new production bores constructed in 2023.