

Port Augusta Community Reference Working Group Meeting Notes

Meeting Number	2
Date	Thursday 1 June 2017 at 5pm, The Standpipe Hotel, Afghan Cameleers Room
Attendees	Brian Reichelt, Brett Prentis, Michelle Coles, Tracey Freeman (for Dan van Holst Pellekaan), Emily Alchin (Centacare), Robin Harkin (DECD), John Banks (Port Augusta City Council), Robin Sharp (Coastal Homes Association SA Inc) Brad Williams (Flinders Power), Dr Briony Horner (Succession Ecology), Glenn Christie (Succession Ecology), Sophie Martin (EPA), Andrew Solomon (EPA), Steve Dangerfield (communicate), Felicity Jukes (communicate)
Apologies	Dan van Holst Pellekaan, Ros McCrae (Country Health SA Local Health Network), Chris Kennett (Housing SA)

Note: Invitations were extended to other individuals and organisations but in the absence of no response received to date they have not been included on this list. Subsequent contact has been made and individuals and organisations requested to confirm if they would like to be part of the group.

1. Welcome and introduction

Steve opened the meeting at 5.15pm, welcomed all community reference group members and gave a summary explanation of the group's purpose for the new members. Steve explained the suggestion for a community reference group emerged as a concept from the Community Information Day held by the EPA in February 2017.

Steve explained that agendas for the meetings of the Reference Group were being developed based on topics of interest raised by group members. Members were invited to continue to raise topics for future meetings.

Steve noted that following conversation with one of the members of the group at the first meeting, a topic of interest already identified for a future meeting is Bird Lake and the Tonkin Report. Steve informed the group that this will involve a number of stakeholders in addition to Flinders Power.

With some new members of the group in attendance, Steve asked the group to introduce themselves and give a brief comment about their interests and the group they represented (if applicable).

Steve reinforced the group's contribution is critical to help to inform Flinders Power's community engagement activities. He stressed the group would help to guide future activities and communications and urged members to identify if there are gaps in these activities or areas for improvement.

2. Acceptance of minutes from last meeting and terms of reference

Steve gave a brief explanation of the draft terms of reference for the new members and asked if the group had any questions in order to finalise the document and publish on the Flinders Power website.

Some questions were raised by members of the group relating to the following:

- Clarity around the statement of Flinders Power's discharge of obligations – what conditions need to be met by Flinders Power in order for this to occur?
- Defining end use of the site – both the power station site and the Ash Storage Area
- Query whether Bird Lake should be part of the terms of reference?
(Action)

As a result, Steve said clarification of these questions would be considered for inclusion in the terms of reference. The document will be re-circulated to the group prior to publication on Flinders Power's website.

There were no comments or changes requested for the minutes from the last meeting.

Steve then addressed the actions from the last meeting and informed the group:

- A senior technical representative from the EPA will be present at future meetings (Sophie Martin and Andrew Solomon in attendance tonight)
- Additional stakeholders had been contacted to complement the membership of the community reference group
- The group had provided comment on the draft terms of reference
- The timeline infographics has been updated
- A community flyer was in the process of development and would be circulated

3. Update on Community Reference Group Membership

Steve thanked the new members for attending. He confirmed that members who were in attendance at the first and second meetings would continue to form the core members of the reference group.

Steve stated this does not stop the group from welcoming more members in the future if appropriate. However, in order to allow for effective administration, it was important to confirm the membership for the time being and focus on the topics of interest.

4. Ash Storage Area (Brad Williams and Briony Horner)

Brad detailed the rationale and the science behind the rehabilitation of the Ash Storage Area (ASA) and showed the group images of the area. Brad informed the group of the magnitude of the works occurring across the 273 hectare site and spoke about the range of ideas considered, and companies and experts who had been engaged to help determine and deliver an appropriate solution for the area. Brad mentioned that the primary risk being considered in the rehabilitation of the area was public safety – ensuring people are not able to access the ASA in the longer term.

He explained how the northern corner of the ASA is wetter than the southern end, and the soil at the northern end holds more clay – making it challenging to deal with due to access issues for heavy machinery. This means it is likely to require additional time for the area to dry out before it can be covered with topsoil.

Andrew (EPA) explained how the 'fingers' – large areas of soil crossing the ASA being higher than the level of the ASA – will help to form barriers thereby stopping water flowing to the

northern end. He also explained how revegetation with native salt tolerant plants will help to lower the water table.

Brad detailed the range of ideas Flinders Power had considered to rehabilitate the area. The preferred solution was to cover the ASA with soil and revegetate. However, at the time this option was excluded due to the cost – a large part of the cost comprised from purchasing top soil. However, this became a viable option when permission was given to establish a borrow pit on Flinders Power's land to excavate soil to cover the ASA.

Andrew responded to questions regarding the possibility of salt and ash leeching into the ground water table and entering the marine environment. He then explained that ash found in the ASA is inert and is not soluble.

Members of the group expressed their desire to have additional information provided about the ash and salt found on site and the potential for it to enter the marine environment.
(Action)

Brad explained the challenges associated with using water from SA Water's wastewater treatment plant near the site.

Brad then showed the progress of the soil coverage up to 1 June 2017 on the ASA and images of plants currently growing through the ash in some areas without any top soil.

Briony from Succession Ecology presented the revegetation process to the group. She told the group this was the largest collection of native seed conducted in South Australia with 6 tonnes of seed required to revegetate 273 hectares. It will follow a successional approach to revegetation by using fast growing, hardy plants to establish initially, mid term plants to follow and some seeds requiring a number of wet dry cycles to germinate and establish in the longer term.

Briony also described the method of seed collection and showed the group examples of other South Australian sites where successful revegetation had occurred.

Briony explained the process for monitoring and maintenance and the need to have structured, proactive planned strategies in place to deal with a range of different issues (eg rabbits or pests, weeds etc).

The group commented on the opportunity to involve local students and look for educational opportunities through the ASA work. (Action)

Brad explained the target for 80% soil coverage of the ASA this year. Dust suppressant will be used to seal the remaining area for summer and crews will continue to monitor the site on a daily basis.

At 7pm Steve asked the group whether they wished to continue with the meeting or reconvene next time due to the time spent discussing the ASA rehabilitation. The group decided to reconvene in three weeks' time to continue with the next items on the agenda.

5. Next steps and meeting close

Steve informed the group of plans to hold a community open day scheduled for 29 July but it would be necessary to check local sporting commitments. (Action)

Sophie mentioned results from air quality monitoring could be added to the agenda at the next meeting. (Action)

Brad informed the group of the next scheduled charge felling event to occur on 17 June 2017.

Steve thanked the group and closed the meeting at 7.11pm.

Actions

Item	Action	Who	When
1	Resolve queries raised by the group regarding the terms of reference and recirculate to the group for comment	Flinders Power	Next meeting
2	Additional explanation regarding protection of marine environment	Flinders Power	Future meetings
3	Identify opportunities for local student involvement	Flinders Power and DECD	Throughout project
4	Determine date of Community Open Day after checking sporting commitments on 29 July 2017	Flinders Power	Next meeting
5	Add air quality monitoring to the agenda for the next meeting	Flinders Power	Next meeting