

## Port Augusta Community Reference Working Group Meeting Notes

Meeting Number	6
Date	Thursday 12 October 2017 at 5:00pm, The Standpipe Hotel, Afghan Room
Attendees	Brett Prentis, Michelle Coles, Dan van Holst Pellekaan (MP), Brad Williams (Flinders Power), Peter Georgaris (CEO, Flinders Power), Kym Maule (Flinders Power), Brian Reichelt, John Williams, Robin Sharp, Robert Singleton, Sophie Martin (EPA)
Facilitator/Executive support	Steve Dangerfield (communicate), Henry Rasheed (communicate)
Visitors	Andrew Manson (DPC) for item 6 via phone, Clive Jenkins (EPA)
Apologies	Emily Alchin (Centacare), John Banks (Port Augusta City Council)

### 1. Welcome and introduction

Steve opened the meeting at 5.00pm and welcomed the group as well as noting visitors and apologies (see list above).

### 2. Acceptance of meeting 5 minutes

Steve went through the minutes and read feedback provided John Banks on the draft. It was agreed that changes be made to meeting 5 minutes to reflect John's comments.

With regard water continuing to be present in Bird Lake, the comment was made that it could be due to the underground water table and this should not be omitted when considering possible causes.

A comment was made with respect to responsibility for the remediation – and while it was acknowledged that Council is the primary owner, Flinders Power also had a role to play.

Flinders Power acknowledged that a small portion of the lake does fall into the overall lease agreement that Flinders Power has with the State Government and that they will take responsibility for the rehabilitation of that portion. Flinders Power also emphasised that they would be willing to contribute to discussions with the Council and State Government if requested.

The amount of time spent on Bird Lake was questioned. Steve stated that the issue had been raised at the first meeting and it had been agreed by the members to use the Reference Group Forum to discuss the issue on behalf of the community. Steve did emphasise that while the issue was not for Flinders Power

to lead, Flinders Power had agreed to support the Reference Groups desire to include the topic on the agenda for discussion.

### **3. Sea Walls**

Steve acknowledged the work of Robin Sharp in putting together information to do with the sea walls and thanked him for raising the issue.

Robin spoke to his discussion paper that had been circulated and stated that the sea walls were a pressing issue in need of attention. He stated that the walls are in need of repair and unless they were to be repaired by Flinders Power, there was a risk that they would be left and handed to the responsibility of the new owner.

If they are not to be repaired they need to be removed and returned to its pre-1950 condition in order to ensure the residents of Port Augusta are not left with another infrastructure burden.

A question was asked as to what environmental problems would occur if the walls are just left. Robin said that they would most likely rust and collapse. While no one could be absolutely sure, he suggested that the tides could eventually move the soil leaving remnant pylons and other infrastructure in the landscape. The EPA commented that it could also result in some form of contamination but they would need to make a detailed site assessment to be definitive as to the nature and extent of any likely issue. While rust isn't a problem in itself, there may be other toxins that could result in addition to it being an eyesore, hazard and nuisance.

Brad shared Flinders Power's position through a presentation, showing the walls as they were in the 1950s and how they were built. He said it would be unwise to attempt to return the area back to its natural state as the nature of the fill material used is unknown and would either need to be removed at great expense or left to wash out to sea with the tide. Neither of these options (removal of fill or leaving the fill material exposed to tidal movements) were considered sustainable solutions.

Brad stated that Flinders Power were assessing how best to repair the sea walls relative to who might wish to use the land in the future. He said that Flinders Power have been working with Aztec engineering who have identified two clear options:

1. A land based solution
2. A concept with additional piles and walers in locations where the wall is in poor condition (A water-based solution)

All solutions include removal of concrete capping, repair/replacement of walers, removing cofferdams and sealing intakes. Aztec will visit the site on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2017 for further detailed inspections.

Brad indicated that the sea walls had been raised in early conversations with potential buyers. Repairs to the sea walls would preferably occur with a future possible use in mind. Therefore, while assessments and options were being considered, it was preferable that decisions are not made in isolation of future land use.

It was also noted that Flinders Power have an obligation to ensure the integrity of the wall prior to the land being transferred from the State Government to Flinders Power for sale. There would also be contained within the conditions of any sale the need to ensure sea walls are maintained.

Ultimately Flinders Power will not leave the wall in its current condition. Further updates will be provided as a preferred repair option is determined and additional information can be shared about possible future land uses.

#### **4. Project Update**

The following points were highlighted in the Project Update presentation:

- The first of four shipments of 10,000T of steel was complete
- Stop-for-Safety sessions held
- Re-application of dust suppressant at the northern end and outer banks of the Ash Storage Area
- Turbine Hall demolition had taken place
- Former coal stockpile re-seeded
- Additional asbestos had been identified which would result in an additional 6 weeks of asbestos removal
- School visits were continuing as well as local media interest

With respect to the Ash Storage Area (ASA), it was noted that strong westerly winds have proven to be challenging. Dust suppressant has been reapplied to the northern area.

Some germination of seed had begun to occur at impressive levels on the western section.

Investigations on the northern end regarding the best remediation approach were continuing.

Brad gave the air monitoring update and presented the results over the month of September. He asked the group what type of data they would like to see in future meetings. The PM10 results were highlighted as being of most interest, however it was noted that this information together with other results is on the Flinders Power website and can be easily accessed. The group therefore advised that future meetings could serve to highlight any particular trend or anything that may constitute cause for concern.

Brad told the room that VSCAP and VSRP agreements are still being finalised with the SA EPA. He said that the approximate timing for the remediation of the

hydrocarbon plume mid November, but further talks with McMahon Services would be needed to confirm times.

## **5. Charge felling of the boilers**

Brad informed the meeting that the felling is scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2017.

Following some discussion a viewing location on Shack Road on the western side of the Gulf was agreed as a safe location.

Kim advised the group that he felt there existed a good amount of community interest in the event which needs to be accounted for in terms of providing a space for car-parking.

It was suggested that it might be worth approaching the Lions Club for a sausage sizzle as well as making some Flinders Power staff available to talk with the community.

Media opportunities were discussed, such as an interview in the morning on ABC Radio, partly to make sure people go to the designated viewing area in order to minimise vehicles stopping in inappropriate locations.

Brad suggested Flinders Power could produce a fact sheet outlining the history of the boilers. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

## **6. Bird Lake update**

Andrew Manson (DPC) joined the meeting via teleconference.

Steve again emphasised that the topic had been included on the agenda due to the request of the majority of participants. While Council were an apology, an update on the matter would be provided.

The EPA noted that Council should be present for any discussion or resolution regarding Bird Lake. This was noted and after further discussion it was agreed by the group that an update only was appropriate.

Steve read an update statement from John Banks. Steve highlighted a key point from John's statement – that the Council had not resolved to project manage the remediation should funds be forthcoming.

Andrew Manson provided an update from DPC.

He advised that DPC had been giving consideration to the issue and were considering the level of funding that might be provided by State Government. He noted in particular that as yet no formal funding proposal had been put before

Government and no decision as to whether funding support would be provided had been made. While he acknowledged that the timing was not ideal given the on-set of summer, he anticipated that Government would consider the matter in the coming months. Andrew noted that multiple government agencies were included in the process.

Andrew also noted that even if the funding was forthcoming, there still remained the question as to who would take responsibility for managing the actual remediation works.

Michelle stated that a commitment was made by a Cabinet Minister to the community in February and yet nothing had eventuated. Michelle indicated that the figure of \$3.2 million had been discussed as the likely commitment and that funding would be forthcoming once the Tonkin report had been completed and the final scope of work understood. Michelle had sent a letter advising of her understanding that a commitment had been made but to date she had not received a response.

A question was asked as to whether a formal request for the funding had been considered by the SA Government. Andrew confirmed that it had not.

The group was advised that Council had met with Cabinet Ministers in recent days. Andrew noted that he and Council were continuing to engage on the matter.

Andrew noted that the Tonkin Report does have enough evidence to inform a funding decision and he/his department is working to get an evidence-based proposal put before the Government for consideration. As this is unbudgeted expenditure, and additional funding source is required and this decision needs to be made by the State Government.

## **7. Future Community Open days/events**

Michelle asked if it was worth doing an invitation only event with ex-staff. Brad said that this was a sensitive matter – some staff would welcome an event and others would find such an event too emotionally difficult and would prefer to move on.

Michelle said that one more community day involving site tours only before the stack felling could be good in order to provide members of the community and former workers with an understanding of the extent of works which had been undertaken.

The timing for such an event was suggested for March.

## 8. Any other business

Steve asked the meeting whether the preservation of historical items should be deferred – this was agreed.

A question was asked as to the difference between the fill levels on Bird Lake and the ash damn. The EPA said that the reason for the differences is due to the water levels.

## 9. Meeting closed

Steve thanked the group and closed the meeting at 7.15pm.

### Actions

Item	Action	Who	When
1	Amendments to be made to meeting 5 minutes noting comments from Council – minutes to be recirculated	Steve	Next meeting
2	Collation and preservation of historical items to be discussed at next meeting	All	Next meeting
3	Communications to be developed and community informed of details for charge felling of boilers	Brad and Steve	Prior to 9 November
4	Consideration to be given to a final open day (bus tours only) for March	Brad and Kym	Ongoing
5	Discussions ongoing with DPC and Council re Bird Lake	Andrew Manson	Ongoing