

Port Augusta Community Reference Working Group Meeting Notes

Meeting Number	7
Date	Thursday 16 November 2017 at 5:00pm, The Standpipe Hotel, Afghan Room
Attendees	Brad Williams (Flinders Power), Kym Maule (Flinders Power), Brian Reichelt, Brett Prentis, Robin Sharp, Sophie Martin (EPA), John Miller
Facilitator/Executive support	Steve Dangerfield (communicate), Henry Rasheed (communicate)
Visitors	Tracy Freeman (Dan's office), Clive Jenkins (EPA)
Apologies	John Banks (Port Augusta City Council), Dan van Holst Pelican (State MP for Stuart), Michelle Coles, Andrew Manson (DPC), Peter Georganis (CEO, Flinders Power)

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 minutes from last meeting

Steve went through the minutes of meetings 5 and 6, showing amendments and seeking approval from the group. He stated that he was still waiting on approval from John for the changes that he raised.

The room accepted the changes, pending John's approval.

3. Project update

Brad provided the group with a project update. The main points of the update were:

- the safety day with the McMahon team
- the re-commencing of soil cover on outer banks and roadways of the ASA
- turbine hall and deaerator building demolition
- the commenced hauling of scrap steel to Port Pirie for the second 10,000T shipment.

Sophie commented that EPA was on site for the charge felling of the boilers. They had some concerns over the dust due to a slight wind change, but their monitoring revealed that there weren't any significant issues.

Brad also provided an update on the status of Playford A and B and the proposed timing for their removal/demolition. He shared that they expect all asbestos to be removed from Playford B by Christmas.

Brad also shared the planned times for some future demolitions, with B station stack timed for February and bunker demolition for February/March.

A concern was raised over the lack of progress of a vegetation cover on the Ash Storage Area (ASA). Brad said that there hadn't up until November 2017 been any issue with red dust, which was very pleasing. Brad also shared that there had been areas across the site where variations to the surface of the soil had seen water pool and in these areas, germination had occurred.

On this basis Brad stated that Flinders Power and the horticultural consultants were confident that providing the area received some rain there would be a notable increase in germination in the ASA.

Sophie suggested that members of the group arrange to visit the site, as in person it is much easier to see the progress.

Kym informed the group that the soil had been contoured in such a way so that when rainfall occurs, even if it is an unprecedented amount, that run off would be minimal with the majority of water pooling across the site.

Brad ended the project update by sharing with the group a short update on the rehabilitation of the Leigh Creek Coal mine. A question was posed about the water retention sites and whether they will benefit the agricultural areas further north. Brad confirmed that a channel would be constructed around the site to ensure water flows from the original Leigh Creek would be diverted around the mine site to benefit the agriculturalists to the north.

4. Sea wall update

Brad shared the outcomes from an inspection undertaken by Aztec.

Aztec found that the sheet piles were in good condition, given their age, however it should be noted that this does not mean that they are in a suitable condition for long-term future sustainability. Their main concern was with respect to the walers as they were corroding and falling away. They had recommended installing new walers behind the existing wall and connecting them to the existing tie rods. A design of these new walers is currently being prepared for a quote.

A question was asked regarding the suitability and sustainability of this approach. Brad said that there needs to be a conversation with the eventual new owners of the site, in order to ensure that the walls continue to be maintained after Flinders Powers leaves the site.

A site management plan will be prepared for the new landowner and they will be required to maintain the site, including the sea wall to the required government and environmental standards.

Clarity was requested from the group as to who specifically will be responsible for keeping the new land owner to account. Sophie stated that multiple parts of Government will have various responsibilities depending upon the specific issue.

Concern was raised as to whether tax payers would in any way be required to fund new works should the sea walls or other remediation works fail on the site. Following discussion, a number of members stated that this would not be the case as there would always be a land owner that would be held to account by the State Government, the EPA and DPTI.

5. Bird Lake – update

Steve provided an update, confirming the grant details that have been in the media recently. These details include:

- A grant to the council of 50% of the rehabilitation project, up to a maximum of \$1.6 million;
- Or a loan of \$3.2 million.

Steve stated that Council is yet to meet to discuss this offer or how the project might be managed.

6. Historical items

Kym advised that a group called 'Hunters and Collectors' have some items that might be of interest, as well as some memorabilia are at the ETSA museum.

He also shared that the historical photos have been organised to go to the local or state library.

An idea was shared that Flinders Power could help expand the Wadlata Outback Centre to incorporate some historical items. It was the view of the room that the only way that something would get done is if Flinders Power approaches the Council with funding, through the recommendation of the reference group. The main issue was finding a body to look after the items in the future.

Sophie suggested that contacting Tourism SA could be a good form of action.

This should be considered for a future meeting.

7. Any other business

Steve asked the room whether they were comfortable with the next meeting being held in late February, with the ability to call an emergency meeting if an urgent issue arises. The group agreed with this idea.

A member of the group asked whether there was still a plan for the bus tours in the new year, which was confirmed by Brad and Steve.

8. Close

Steve thanked the group and closed the meeting at 6.45pm.

Actions

There were no specific actions arising from the meeting.