

Port Augusta Community Reference Working Group Meeting Notes

Meeting number	10
Date	Thursday 3 May 2018 at 5:00pm, The Standpipe Hotel, Afghan Room
Attendees	Brad Williams (Flinders Power), Kym Maule (Flinders Power), Brian Reichelt, Brett Prentis, Robin Sharp, Michelle Coles, Emily Alchin (DPP), John Miller
Facilitator/Executive support	Steve Dangerfield (communicate), Henry Rasheed (communicate)
Visitors	Rachel Hudson (EPA), Travis Dymmott (EPA), Matt Prentis
Apologies	John Banks (Port Augusta City Council), Dan van Holst Pelican (State MP for Stuart), Tracey Freeman (Dan van Holst Pelican's office), Andrew Manson (Department of Premier and Cabinet), Peter Georgaris (CEO, Flinders Power), Chris Kennett

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).

Steve stated that since the new Government had taken office there had been a change in structure. Andrew Manson had advised that as a consequence of the changes he would no longer be representing the Government on the broader issue of Bird Lake. It was likely that the role will fall to key staff within the Department of State Development – or a new department focusing on Mines and Energy that is yet to be created. This will be resolved in the coming months.

2. Acceptance of minutes of meeting #9 and any actions arising from the minutes

Steve directed the room's attention to the minutes from meeting #9, making note of the level of detail that had been employed when explaining the questions that were addressed. Due to this, Steve was happy to wait until next meeting for approval.

A member asked for an explanation about the "Generation Lessor Corporation". This Corporation was established at the time of the privatisation of the Electricity Trust of South Australia as the body corporate responsible for the leasing of assets to the private sector. In terms of whose responsibility the site would become during the sale process and after the sale - Brad was able to say that it will continue to remain Flinders Power's responsibility until the land is sold, which cannot be done without sign off on the remediation from the EPA and State Government. Once the land is sold, it will become the new landowner's

responsibility to maintain the land in accordance with the Ash Storage Area Post-Completion Monitoring and Maintenance Plan, the Site Management Plan, Native Veg Consent Conditions and any additional obligations.

The room agreed to wait until the next meeting to review the minutes and provide feedback and acceptance.

Steve then directed the room's attention to the draft fact sheet of the NPS Stack Demolition/Retention. Steve asked for any comments and encouraged members to take it home to read through it. A member asked whether the date for demolition would be included in the fact sheet. Brad said that a date hadn't been set but that July 2018 was looking possible dependent upon managing issues associated with the temporary relocation of power lines by ElectraNet.

3. Project update and milestones

Kym provided a project update, which consisted of:

- General site demolition progress
- Playford B demolition progress
- Scrap processing update
- Northern site – centre coal bunker charge felling
- Ash storage area – progress on covering the polishing pond with soil
- Ash storage area – contingency planning and trials
 - Different seeding methods/seed mixes
 - Irrigation solutions
 - Alternate dust suppressants
 - Germination trials
 - Analysing the salinity and pH levels of the soil
 - Trails to prevent wind erosion, water run off and providing seed collecting ruts
- Meeting with SA Water to explore how to access and use recycled water from the adjacent wastewater treatment plant for irrigation
- Upcoming events
 - Scrap transporting to Pt. Pirie wharf
 - Continued deconstruction of Playford B and NPS structures
 - Electranet start the bypass supply line
 - Trails on the ASA
- Site visits
 - 198 enquired
 - 2 currently booked
 - 172 complete

A member asked whether there was an issue with respect to mud when working on covering the polishing pond. Kym said that they had thankfully not encountered problems with this issue to date.

A member asked whether there was consideration being given to using different types of seeds for seeding the polishing pond. Kym and Brad explained that they

are planning on using more salt resilient shrubs and plants (ie a higher percentage of samphires in the mix).

A member noted the “win-win” nature of an SA Water irrigation solution, as it would help to remove discharge of wastewater to the Gulf and harness it for use as a resource in irrigating the ASA. This would be seen as good news and if it translates to a delivery model it could be actively promoted as an additional Flinders Power initiative that has benefited the community.

A member asked how long the trials would take. Kym said that before next summer all of the trials would have been completed and they will have a range of options to consider for use as contingency if needed.

Steve asked the room whether the listed contingency plans in Kym’s presentation should be put together in a fact sheet. The room agreed that this would be very helpful in educating the community on what Flinders Power are doing and just how many different things they’re trying.

A member asked whether there are plans to refill the borrow pit. Kym said that they’ve reseeded the area and redirected an old creek that used to run through that area, which will pick up run off water. The idea is to allow the area to germinate and return it to a natural form. However, new soil will not be brought in to restore the area to former ground levels.

4. Ash Storage Area – commonly asked questions continued

Brad continued to address the questions in the commonly asked questions presentation, asking the group to prioritise the remaining questions. Questions 2 and 10 were addressed during the session.

Q2: Will leachate impact the gulf? Why isn’t the ash storage area lined?

Brad explained that the ash is chemically and physically stable and inert. Therefore, it doesn’t leach metals/nutrients to levels that cause human or environmental harm or exceed relevant standards. Brad went through the various forms of evidence that support this assessment as follows:

- Laboratory testing
 - Lower series burn trials (conducted by Flinders Power)
 - Lab testing against DPTI criteria (conducted by Golder Associates)
 - Assessment for suitability for industrial re-use (conducted by Coffey)
- Ground water testing (conducted by Coffey in 2016 and 2017)
 - They found that the ASA did not report chemicals above likely background concentrations
 - They concluded it was unlikely that any chemicals from the ash material would have leached to the subsurface and the groundwater conditions reported around the ASA support this conclusion

- Kleinfelder is scheduled to conduct another round of ground water testing in June 2018
- Kirsa Environmental (Site Contamination Auditor) have stated their satisfaction that rehabilitation plans for the ash dam area “are reasonable and should ensure that the capping and revegetation will not result in harm to human health or the environment.”
- ASA Radiation survey (conducted by Flinders Power and EPA)
 - Leigh Creek coal contains low levels of radioactivity – similar levels to natural soils
 - EPA advice was that testing showed that levels were “below state and international exemption thresholds” and therefore “no further action is required.”
- Marine biology assessment (conducted by SA Research and Development Institute)
 - SARDI looked at the seagrass, mangroves, sediments and infauna at the mouth of Hospital Creek and at the three control sites in northern Spencer Gulf for comparison
 - SARDI concluded no negative environmental impacts from the discharge from Hospital Creek were detected
- Biennial mangrove and seagrass monitoring
 - Flinders Power undertakes seagrass and mangrove mapping every two years
 - Results over the years indicate natural fluctuations in mangrove health, however increases in seagrass distribution were discovered
- Independent verification of marine monitoring program
 - Annual independent assessment of Flinders Power’s monitoring data – as required under the Environmental Compliance Agreement

A member questioned whether the majority of the ash was bottom ash or fly ash. Kym and Brad explained that the majority is bottom ash, as much of the fly ash was transported away by Adelaide Brighton Cement and other company’s that historically purchased fly ash from Flinders Power. An EPA member also commented, saying that their tests confirm that the majority is bottom ash.

Kym also explained the groundwater water testing that Flinders Power have undertaken in the gulf which has again shown no impact.

A member asked how much fly ash washed off to the sea previously; Kym explained the catchment systems Flinders Power had in place that didn’t allow for any runoff into the gulf.

Q10: Why retain the site foundations?

Brad explained the reasoning for retaining the concrete slabs and other foundations on the site.

These foundations form part of the 'Preserved Infrastructure' agreement with SA Government. This agreement includes power supply, water supply, roads, electrical workshop, sewage, telecoms, stormwater system, cooling water channels, fencing and concrete footings and sub-surface infrastructure.

The reason for preserving this infrastructure is to provide an ideal site for future commercial/industrial use. The concrete slabs at Northern and Playford are many metres deep; they provide a stable, flat surface for future development. Therefore, there is no value in removing them.

A number of members expressed their concern with the slabs remaining, as they didn't believe that the slabs provided value for future owners.

Brad pointed out that around a dozen interested parties have been on tours of the site and not one has expressed concern over the slabs remaining.

A member raised the comments by EPA representatives on the ABC 7.30 Report. The representatives stated that there would be full remediation, which in the opinion of the member included the industrial area, not just the Ash Storage Area. Full remediation was defined by the member in their opinion that this would include full removal of foundations. The EPA members present stated that the EPA representatives on the 7:30 Report were referring to the ash storage area only.

Steve revisited the point made by Brad that retaining the slabs is a contractual obligation of Flinders Power as part of the agreement with the State Government.

Kym explained that there is a lot of value added infrastructure on the site that is going to be retained in order to make the site more attractive to a future buyer.

5. Any other business – NPS stack felling community engagement

A member expressed their concern over the group not being informed over who is going to buy the land. Brad pointed out that they are not in a position to give information on who is interested in purchasing the industrial land at this time. However, once the information can be shared, it is absolutely the aim to share that information with the group and the broader community.

6. Next steps

Steve asked whether the group thought that it was still relevant to hold an open day soon or to wait until there was further progress with respect to the rehabilitation of the ASA, contingency plans and the future of the site.

The room agreed that an open day should be held later in the year, once some of the trials have been conducted and more can be shared with the greater community.

A member said that there should be some TV/Radio coverage of the SA Water irrigation deal, if it comes off. Another member agreed and volunteered to be a spokesperson with Kym for potential media coverage.

A member stated that when the stack felling occurs, there should be vantage points set up on the day of the felling with members from Flinders Power, EPA and the CRG. These members would be able to answer questions and offer information by way of fact sheets. The room agreed.

7. Close

Steve thanked the group and closed the meeting at 7.20pm.

Actions

Item	Action	Who
1	Create contingency plans factsheet	Flinders Power and communicate
2	Determine vantage point(s) where Flinders Power, EPA and CRG representatives can talk to community members while they watch the stack felling	Flinders Power
3	CRG members to provide any further feedback on the draft Stack Felling fact sheet	CRG members