

## Port Augusta Community Reference Working Group Meeting Notes

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Meeting number                | 11   |
| Date                          | Thursday 28 June 2018 at 5:00pm,<br>The Standpipe Hotel, Afghan Room   |
| Attendees                     | Brad Williams (Flinders Power), Kym Maule (Flinders Power), Brian Reichelt, Brett Prentis, Robin Sharp, Tracey Freeman (Dan van Holst Pelican's office), John Miller, Michelle Coles, Travis Dymmott (EPA), John Banks (Port Augusta City Council) |
| Facilitator/Executive support | Steve Dangerfield (communicate), Henry Rasheed (communicate)   |
| Visitors                      | Sarah Verdonk (EPA), Sam Johnson (Mayor, Port Augusta City Council)  |
| Apologies                     | Dan van Holst Pelican (State MP for Stuart), Peter Georgaris (CEO, Flinders Power), Chris Kennett, Emily Alchin (DPP)  |

### 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 referred to his note in the last meeting's minutes regarding Andrew Manson's changing role due to the new government and therefore he won't be attending future CRG meetings.

### 2. Acceptance of minutes of meeting #9 and meeting #10 and any actions arising from the minutes

Steve asked the room if there were any changes to the minutes from meeting #9.

The room agreed to approve the meeting #9 minutes.

In terms of meeting #10 minutes, Steve asked the room if they would like to wait until the next meeting to approve these. The room decided to approve the meeting #10 minutes, with the following inclusion:

A member asked if there could be more clarity around whose responsibility the site would become after the sale. Brad was able to say that it will continue to remain Flinders Power's responsibility until the land is sold. In particular, the point was raised in the context that there exists a concern in the community that there remains a risk that either the Government or the Council (and by default the tax payer) will be left to resolve a legacy issue if the environmental remediation project (inclusive of the Power Station land and the Ash Storage Area) fails.

Another member noted that Flinders Power are not allowed to sell the land until the EPA has signed off on the rehabilitation.

An inclusion with further information around who should take responsibility for the site and in particular any liabilities both during and after the sale process was made in the meeting #10 minutes. The group were happy to accept the meeting 10 minutes on the basis that such a note to this effect was included.

A member asked if a company bought the land and then went bankrupt, who's responsibility would it be then? Steve noted the concern of the room and that the community would need further evidence that the right checks and balances are put in place to ensure any ongoing remediation, monitoring or legacy issues do not become the burden of the tax payer via Council or Government.

### **3. Project update and upcoming milestones**

Kym provided the room with a project update, which consisted of:

- Playford A
  - An approved capping over the A station basement is yet to be completed. A crushing plant is due on site late July 2018 to commence processing the site material to an appropriate size for capping. In the meantime the area has been sprayed with dust suppressant
- Playford B
  - The demolition activities on the boilers and processing the felled boiler material continues
- Scrap processing
  - Processing of non-ferrous material continues
  - Processing of all demolition materials continues
- Northern Site
  - Scrap processing for the site. The Stack is the only structure left standing at present and will be felled later in the year
- Ash Storage Area (ASA)
  - Placing topsoil on the polishing pond area continues. Some recent delays experienced due to recent rains early in the month
  - A member asked why the polishing pond was still wet. Kym noted that it is a bit lower than other areas and therefore would have been receiving a lot of water over the last 50 years.
- Dust management options
  - A detailed spread sheet was developed encompassing information and data from suppliers/consultants/stakeholders/interested public and used to inform the development of realistic options considered at an on-site workshop held 23-24 May 2018 with Tonkin Consulting, Succession Ecology, McMahon Services and Flinders Power.
  - The information was categorised into:
    - Dust Suppression

- Irrigation – which included sprinkler germination trials, site-wide irrigation and effluent irrigation
  - Wind velocity reduction
  - Seeding – included different strains than already planted
  - Surface roughening.
- Each of the proposals/solutions was then assessed and categorised as follows:
  - **Further Assessment or trial required** i.e. the options that have some merit but need further investigations or trial to fully assess the impacts or success.
  - **Option to implement** (trial) i.e. options assessed that could or would be used in the future.
  - **Possible solution** i.e. options already being trialled such as borrow pit ripping and surface roughening of the ASA, some form of irrigation, wind velocity reduction techniques and mulching.
  - **Not a viable option** i.e. options that would impede germination or impact/reverse the work already done, options that are not environmentally safe, options that were impracticable by way of application e.g. unsafe for persons or machinery and/or are exceptionally cost inhibitive.

The assessment of the options against these categories is outlined below:

#### **Further Assessment or Trial Required:**

- SA Water effluent outfall use.
  - Follow up with SA Water for their proposal.
- Various suppressant applications and or products (x7).
  - A trial to assess the impact of a range of soil surface polymers and seed germination, plant survival, water flow and soil surface binding.
- Sprinkler for germination.
  - A trial to assess the impact of applying a known quantity of water to an area of the ASA by sprinkler irrigation.
- Engage an advisor on dust management contingencies to supplement the Tonkin review.
  - Dr Leong Mar – Red Planet Innovations (ex-Dupont chemist) engaged.

#### **Option to Implement**

- Seeding trial of Barley/Rye Corn
  - A trial to investigate the potential for a cover crop to minimise dust generation from the ash storage area (ASA) and borrow pit and not impede establishment of planted native vegetation.
- Soil Sampling
  - Develop a method to collect soil samples to fully understand the variable quality of the spread topsoil and impediments to germination.

### **Possible Solution**

- Pistenbully roughening surface – monitor the area in windy conditions for dust lift-off to ascertain any potential benefits from the trial
- Borrow pit ripping - monitor the area in windy conditions for dust lift off to ascertain any potential benefits from the trial
- Irrigation (large scale) – follow up on the proposal from the interested irrigation provider. Engaged an irrigation advisor (Hydroplan) to provide an opinion on options or viability.
- Mulching – scope potential suppliers of mulch to understand what products are available and what quantities are readily sourced for review as a possible solution to some areas.
- Wind velocity reduction – Tonkin to provide a report on possible solutions and their viability for our site.

**Not a viable option** – A range of possible options could be considered but may have varying negative impacts. These ideas are to be reassessed at a later date depending on the outcomes of the more viable options. At this stage Flinders Power are not wanting to limit, restrict or remove possible options that may need further consideration in the future.

A member asked if the EPA would sign off on the site while the trials were still being undertaken. The EPA confirmed that this would not be the case – any trial needs to be considered successful and then be applied across the site to achieve the overall objective of a sustainable land form. Sign off will not occur until the EPA is satisfied that a selected methodology will support this desired outcome.

A member asked whether there was some information available on the sign off process for Flinders Power before they will be released from their commitment deed.

Brad briefly explained the various steps of the process. Steve suggested that seeing as there is a slide dedicated to that question in the Q and A presentation, that the group allow Kym to finish his update and then return to this issue when it arises in the Q and A presentation.

Kym explained the germination contingencies and trials that Flinders Power has conducted, in order to improve dust control. Further consultations with a range of suppliers with different techniques and/or products has been undertaken. A total of 24 suppliers have shown interest and have sent in proposals and/or visited site. All contingency options are being assessed and evaluated by Tonkin Consulting. In line with the options assessment process, a number of specific initiatives have been triggered:

- An irrigation advisor has been engaged to provide a concept of possible irrigation techniques for the site. Site inspection conducted 13/6/18.
- Seeding the outer banks has been completed with a combination of native seed mix and barley/rye/corn. Seeding of the same mix on 4 portions the ASA surface has been completed. The trial is to investigate the potential

- for a cover crop to minimise dust generation from the ASA and borrow pit and not impede establishment of planted native vegetation. All trial areas have been marked out for monitoring purposes.
- Information regarding alternate dust suppressants has been received from many different suppliers.
  - Greenhouse trials for germination success through various suppressants are being arranged with samples being provided by the suppliers. Succession Ecology has developed a trial plan. The aim of this trial is to assess the impact of a range of soil surface polymers on seed germination and plant survival. This trial began in the week of 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
  - A trial of roughening up a patch of the ASA surface using the Pistenbully then re-sealing with the watercart has been completed.
  - A trial of watering an area of the ASA with sprinklers has commenced and a detailed trial plan has been developed for accurate recording of the results.
  - A trial to help manage dust emanating from the borrow pit has been completed. This consisted of light ripping of contours of areas 8-10m apart to roughen up surface to: prevent wind erosion, prevent water run off and provide seed collecting ruts.
  - Met with SA Water representatives in regard to the use of the outflow water from the processing plant on the western boundary of the ASA. A full report/proposal is to be presented to Flinders Power by SA Water.

With respect to the germination of native seed, the Succession Ecology Post-seeding monitoring report for April concluded:

The site has struggled with the dry spell between January and April 2018. The hot dry conditions have reduced survivorship and recruitment. However, the majority of mature plants are still surviving on site, they are still reproducing, and their average surface area has increased. Considering that the site has only received a total of 105 mm rain since June 2017 and the average rainfall is 241mm, the plants are doing very well.

Kym updated the group on the coal stockpile revegetation process:

Flinders Power has received approval to the amended Dust Management Plan from the EPA to cover the former Coal Stockpile with top soil and seed as per the ASA approved plan.

Northern Stack Felling:

ElectraNet have commenced planning and preparatory work to build a bypass supply to the Eyre Peninsula. The Stack charge felling final date is subject to readiness of the ElectraNet bypass project. The date will be well communicated prior to the event.

Steve then drew the group's attention to the updated draft of the stack felling fact sheet. He asked the group to take some time to read through the fact sheet and come back with any feedback. Once any feedback has been

considered and changes implemented, it will be made final and printed to be given to interested parties. A member asked that a visual representation of the bypass (as per Kym's slide) be included on the fact sheet. This will be considered by Flinders and ElectraNet.

#### Bird Lake:

Flinders Power has advised Port Augusta City Council and SA Government that the ASA civil works program is nearing completion.

John Banks pointed out that unfortunately Council didn't have time to respond to the opportunity to use McMahon Services for Bird Lake. Brad said that there is approximately another 6 weeks of work remaining, depending on how long it will take McMahon Services to finish the work on the polishing pond. Brad also pointed out that it ultimately wouldn't be Flinders Power's decision. If McMahon has another project they have already booked, that is out of Flinders Power's control.

A member asked if Flinders Power can talk to McMahon to work out what the window might be for an answer from Council.

Action: Council to be advised by Flinders Power as to the final date that McMahon Services could be available to transition across to the rehabilitation works for Bird Lake.

#### Senate Inquiry:

Flinders Power has made a submission to the Senate Inquiry available at: [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment\\_and\\_Communications/MiningandResources](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/MiningandResources)

John Banks asked whether Flinders Power would present at any hearing. Brad stated that if a hearing was to occur then Flinders Power would contribute and attend subsequent to any invitation. Council noted that they would also present.

John Banks asked who is on the board of Flinders Power? Steve stated that Brad has answered this before.

Brad explained that the board consisted of John Mouawad (chair), Ryan Shaw (director) and Michael Riches (director). The member asked whether that meant that Peter Georgaris was not on the board, which Brad confirmed. John Banks then asked for further detail of the structure of Flinders Power. Brad explained that Flinders has been funded as its own entity, for closure, with a board of three and a management team of five.

Brad and Kym confirmed that Flinders Power is an entirely separate company from Alinta Energy.

#### **4. Community development fund project ideas**

Brad explained to the group that there was a \$1 million fund for regional development, as part of the closure.

Brad told the group that so far \$545k in total has been committed to the following initiatives:

- Leigh Creek Doctor Service
- Aroona Dam fish stocks & facilities upgrade
- Stirling North airstrip upgrade
- Damper rocks relocation (Leigh Creek)

A member pointed out that the SA Government should also be funding the airstrip upgrade, as the CFS uses it very regularly.

Brad asked the group if there were any other ideas for future funding, asking for ideas that were long-term that would benefit the community. He pointed out that a Port Augusta playground and funding for the Arid Lands Botanic Gardens had been raised already as ideas.

A member pointed out that Port Augusta doesn't have a playground and they should look to offer this service to the community.

John Banks asked whether the funding for historical items comes out of this fund. A question that had been raised in a Council meeting around how much money was being put towards the historical items project by Flinders Power. Brad said that it would depend on the project, if it were a \$100k investment it would need to come out of this fund. But if it were around a \$10k investment, it might be allocated from elsewhere within the Flinders Power budget.

John Banks asked what members of SA Government endorse the funding decisions. Brad said that following the election, the new State Government had appointed Paul Heithersay as the main contact for Flinders Power. Previously the main contact was Jane Lomax-Smith. Steve suggested that Flinders Power seek some clarity on this matter (ie who makes the ultimate decision) and report it to the next CRG meeting.

A member pointed out that there will be an ongoing maintenance cost of any significant historical items infrastructure and that such responsibility would fall to council's responsibility. This cost will not be incurred if council do not wish to support an initiative to house and display historical power station memorabilia.

Steve suggested that the group construct a list of what historical items are that can be put to Council for their consideration – based on what historical items are available. This would start a conversation with Council on what needs to be built

or where they can potentially be stored and the ongoing costs that might be incurred for maintenance.

Steve then asked the group if there were any other ideas for the community development fund.

Ideas generated included:

- A club/community centre near the old ETSA building (near Leigh memorial oval)
- A viewing platform or something similar adjacent the gulf with historical boards/memorial
- A playground with a power station theme

## **5. Long term future and purpose of the Reference Group**

Steve introduced this item and invited Kym to update the group on discussions had with the Port Augusta Developers Group.

At the meeting of the Port Augusta Developers Group, a discussion was had about community engagement. Flinders Power presented what they had initiated and explained the reference group model. This drew the attention of a number of companies and there was view that emerged that the reference group could broaden their focus to consider other projects and initiatives in the region, providing a community reference group for other companies to access. The terms of reference would need to be revised, as well as the membership (possibly expanding).

The group agreed that this would be a good idea and that Kym should put this idea forward at the next meeting of the Port Augusta Developers Group. If this was to occur the group made it clear that it remained critical that the current focus of the reference group remain with the Flinders Power site and that other regional projects should not detract from this focus.

It was made clear that no change to the current group, including the terms of reference and membership, would occur without a discussion with the group and their unanimous endorsement.

## **6. Commonly asked questions**

The group sought to focus on Q.6.

### **Q6: What happens after June 2018? FP closure obligations**

Brad pointed out that there is a misconception that the project ceases as of 30 June 2018 and all Flinders Power staff will leave.



He said that while the majority of the works will be complete by July 2018, significant works would continue until October (scrap processing) and November (stack felling)

He said that while it is likely that there will be reduced Flinders Power personnel after July 2018, a core group will remain to manage the site until demolition and rehabilitation works are completed and a sale agreement is reached with a third party. Any sale agreement would include ongoing monitoring and site maintenance requirements.

Brad then went on to detail the obligations that Flinders Power must meet before the land can be sold. These are broken down into three stages, noting that Flinders Power cannot progress to the next stage until all steps have been completed.

### **Stage 1: Operations**

Flinders was subject to multiple compliance obligations during the operations of the site, including:

- Generation licence
- EPA licence 13006
- Environmental Compliance Agreement
- Land Lease
- Generation Plant Lease

### **Stage 2: Demolition & rehabilitation** (currently in this stage)

Core compliance obligations:

- Consent deed
- EPA Licence 13006
  - Closure & Post-Closure Plan
  - Dust management plan
  - Ash Storage Area rehabilitation plan
  - Post-ASA completion monitoring & maintenance plan
  - Voluntary Site Contamination Assessment Proposal & Voluntary Site Remediation Proposal
- Environmental Compliance Agreement
- Native Veg Consent Conditions
- Land Lease
  - Retained infrastructure
- Generating Plant Lease
  - Dismantling Plan

**Stage 3: Post-Closure/Sale** – this will be Flinders Powers' responsibility once they move to this stage and until they sell the land. Once the land is sold, these obligations will continue to be the responsibility of the new landowner.

Core ongoing compliance obligations:

- EPA Licence conditions (tbc)
- Site Management Plan (site contamination ongoing obligations)
- Post-ASA Monitoring & Maintenance Plan

- Native Vegetation Council Consent Conditions

Steve pointed out that Flinders Power is not able to abandon their post-closure/sale obligations before negotiating the site sale and transfer of any ongoing liabilities, conditions or monitoring requirements. This is no different to any other landowner.

John Banks asked whether the EPA site management and monitoring conditions will be available for the community, council and CRG to comment on and influence. The EPA said that a public consultation period is likely to be part of the process and it may include a notification letter to the CRG and the broader community. The letter could detail the obligations for looking after the land in the post-closure stage and provide opportunity for the community, council and CRG to comment.

A member asked whether there is opportunity for the community, council and CRG to influence the actual sign off process. The EPA stated that this would need to be clarified.

The EPA said they would seek clarification and get back to the group on:

- If the community get an opportunity to actually influence the EPA's sign off on the remediation works – i.e.: some form of acceptance
- Whether the group and the community will get a chance to comment on the sign off process.

While other comments may be able to be provided, subject to EPA verification, Flinders Power is bound by a set of legal and statutory obligations. Which it will be required to meet.

John Banks was worried about the possibility that Flinders Power may sell the land to a company that will go bankrupt and therefore won't be able to continue to look after the site.

Kym pointed out that there is a rigorous process involved in selling the site and if a company doesn't exhibit the financial credentials to continue the ongoing compliance obligations they would be not considered an acceptable buyer.

## **7. Any other business**

A member asked whether there were any results on which seeds are the most successful being used on the ASA. Kym said that greenhouse testing is underway and he will share the results with the group at the next meeting (providing the results are available in time for the next meeting).

A member asked whether the group could be informed on either the potential purchaser or purchaser(s) of the site as soon as practicable. Brad said that while there is some significant interest from various companies he is not in a position to disclose any information at this time. Interested parties enter into

confidentiality agreements while they are looking at options to purchase. However, Flinders Power remained committed to disclosing the information to the group at the appropriate time while ensuring they manage commercial-in-confidence negotiations.

An EPA member asked for the slides to be circulated to the group.

John Banks said that there is a body of work being undertaken by the council via Adelaide University on the social implications of having a large amount of developers involved in Port Augusta. This includes environmental and housing implications.

## 8. Next steps and close

Steve thanked the group and closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

He asked the group on their thoughts on a date for the next meeting. The 23<sup>rd</sup> of August was pencilled as the best date, subject to availability of various parties.

## Actions

| Item | Action  | Who                            |
|------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1    | Send the stack felling draft fact sheet to CRG members  | communicate                    |
| 2    | Clarify who within SA Government is authorising funding decisions from the regional development fund  | Flinders Power                 |
| 3    | Council to be advised by Flinders Power as to the final date that McMahon Services could be available to transition across to the rehabilitation works for Bird Lake.   | Flinders Power                 |
| 4    | Steve suggested that the Hunters & Collectors group construct a list of what historical items are available and to put that list to council to determine whether the gallery space adjacent Wadlata would be suitable for an ongoing museum | Flinders Power and communicate |
| 5    | Information on the works going to go ahead on the sea walls to be shared with the group next meeting  | Flinders Power                 |
| 6    | Share the seeding results from greenhouse testing with the group at the next meeting  | Flinders Power                 |
| 7    | Kym to report to the Port Augusta Developers Group that the Reference Group   | Flinders Power                 |

|          |  |                                |
|----------|--|--------------------------------|
|          | is willing to consider a broader role but without losing focus on the Flinders Power site rehabilitation   |                                |
| <b>8</b> | Share the slides from this meeting with the CRG group  | Flinders Power and communicate |
| <b>9</b> | EPA to seek clarification and get back to the group on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the community get an opportunity to actually influence the EPA's sign off on the remediation works – i.e.: some form of acceptance</li> <li>• Whether the group and the community will get a chance to comment on the sign off process.</li> </ul> | EPA                            |