



## MURRAY MALLEE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (MERCUNDA MINERAL SANDS)

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 29 May 2024 held at the Mindarie Site Office

Meeting commenced at 4.00 pm

### **Present:**

Wendy Campana (Independent Chair)

Land owners: Kevin Heidrich, Nathan Heidrich, Darren Zadow, Jamie Evans

Landscape Murraylands & Riverland: Andrew Biele

DEM: Greg Tyczenko (via link)

RDA Murraylands Riverland: Ben Fee (via link)

Murray Zircon (MZ): Ken Donaldson, Chrystal Goodhand, Joelle Hentschke, Rohan Calley, Tim Moreton

Tim Whetstone MP

### **Apologies:**

Graham Hewson

Fudd & Sharon Francis and Simon Hilder (had advised apologies but were not recognised at meeting as messages were not seen at this time).

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

The Chair thanked members for attending the meeting and all present introduced themselves to the group.

Ben Fee clarified that he was participating as an “observer” and that the RDA would determine its member shortly.

Chrystal Goodhand outlined her Community Liaison Officer role to the meeting.

## **2. Minutes & Actions from the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes and Actions of the previous meeting held on 6 March 2024 were received as a true and accurate record.

The Chair updated members on the following actions:

- Membership: Noted that the Landscape Board had formalized its member in Andrew Biele and that the RDA was to do so shortly. Chrystal Goodhand would now take up the matter of advertising and supporting the Chair with the determination of the new community stakeholder member. The Group will be advised when adverts are out so as to assist in gaining nominations for the position.
- Terms of Reference (TOR) – further clarification being sought from DEM on updating arrangements.
- FAQs/Website – to be progressed via Chrystal Goodhand

## **3. Project Update**

Ken Donaldson provided an update on the following matters:

- Our Safety performance is good, and improving: we are now have the milestone of one year without a lost time injury in our sights.
- We are continuing to invest in safe operations, our people and training, and in particular have now completed 3 Emergency Response training sessions for our personnel that volunteered to be part of this response team.
- We continue to recruit locally where possible, with several recent positions filled from the immediate region eg Loxton, or Adelaide
- Since the last meeting we dispatched our second shipment of HMC, 23kt finished loading and left port 16<sup>th</sup> May.
- We are still working to a Compliance Directive, a result of more overburden stockpiled than originally anticipated in the PEPR.
- Subsequently we have submitted and had approved a Notification of Change in Operations and a revised PEPR. We have met and consulted with the landowner to understand any concerns with the revised PEPR.
- The Department for Energy and Mining have recently visited site to verify we have complied with all the requirements under the compliance directive, including hydro seeding of all sub and topsoil stockpiles, as per IFCE recommendations.
- We also addressed an area of concern raised by landholder, we inspected immediately after our regular meeting, addressed this high drift risk area the next morning.
- We are just reaching the limit of the approved in pit area under the directive, so have had to endure some outages as we slow down further and continue to work within the approved limits.
- We now have tails cells 1-4 backfilled and with sub soil returned and surface levelled in preparation for final placement of topsoil, clay and chicken manure. We have backfilled cells 5 and 6 and are currently backfilling cell 7, and operating into cell 10.
- The plant is however continuing to improve, with some good feed grade and excellent runtimes seeing us set a new project record only last week for Heavy Mineral Concentrate production in 24hrs.

As Graham Hewson was not available there was no economic update.

## Tour of the Mine

This will be arranged to co-incide with the next meeting and members were advised that about 1.5 hours would be required for this tour.

### Agreed Actions:

- Arrangements for a tour of the mine immediately prior to the next meeting

## **4. Community Engagement Update**

Members were advised that the draft paper prepared by the Chair regarding the webpage information and FAQs that members had provided feedback on would be progressed by the MZ Chrystal Goodhand.

The community stakeholder member would also be progressed by the Chair and Chrystal Goodhand.

Tim Whetstone indicated that he had spoken with the local paper and it would appear that they may be supportive of an editorial to update the community about what MZ is undertaking.

### Agreed Actions:

- Chair to progress with Chrystal Goodhand:
  - Webpage update re Stakeholder Group
  - Advert and selection of Community Member to the Group
  - Options for editorial regarding MZ operations

## **5. Any Other Business**

### **5.1. Vehicles on Roads – Shift Changeover**

Jamie Evans spoke to this matter related to the level of traffic on what is not a good road and feedback from the local bus driver and workers regarding use of the bus. In response Ken advised:

- Staff numbers have been lower than previous but would increase
- Vehicles that will use the road are those of supervisors and others travelling that would not use the bus
- MZ are keen to ensure usage of the bus for both the contribution to the local bus driver and also to relieve traffic on the road

### Agreed Actions:

- MZ will monitor this issue

### **5.2. Roads**

#### Walker Flat Road

General discussion took place on the condition of this road, including the need for wetting it down and grading on a more regular basis. It was noted that the road was owned by the DC of Karoonda East Murray and the Mid Murray Council. It was also noted that weather changes with rain on the way would potentially cause more issues.

### Jacka Road

It was also mentioned in relation that this road that it had a large pothole recently attended to by Council and that it would be closed when the mine goes across the road..

There was also discussion regarding overhanging trees.

#### Agreed Actions:

- Darren Zadow to clarify with the DC of Karoonda East Murray the frequency of maintenance on roads
- A report and/or presentation be given at the next meeting about the priority and maintenance on affected roads by both the DC of Karoonda East Murray and the Mid Murray Council

### **5.3. Emergency Management**

The Chair queried whether this matter, raised at the last meeting, had been progressed ie a discussion between MZ and the local Chief to ensure co-ordination of emergency management efforts.

Jamie Evans advised he had been given the name and number of the relevant MZ employee but had called and not received a returned call. When he advised the employee's name it was noted that this person was no longer a MZ employee.

#### Agreed Action

- Jamie Evans and Ken Donaldson to follow this matter up and arrange for a meeting to occur between MZ and the local Chief.
- A report of action to be provided to the next meeting

### **5.4. Telecommunications Connectivity**

Nathan Heinrich suggested that due to the problems with connectivity a Telstra Tower be installed on the MZ site.

The Chair advised the meeting that this was not a MZ responsibility and asked if the matter did progress through other avenues would MZ potentially be prepared to consider a tower on its property. Ken Donaldson advised that MZ might well consider a proposal if one should emerge.

Tim Whetstone updated members on the status of funding for black spots across the state with primary funding going to the Limestone Coast.

### **5.5. Flashing Lights**

Jamie Evans raised the continuing use of the flashing lights on vehicles. Ken Donaldson advised he had asked drivers to turn their lights off. Jamie Evans suggested signage at the site and camp may be a more permanent reminder.

#### Agreed Actions:

- MZ to install signs at site reminding workers to turn these lights off

## **6. Next Meeting**

The Chair advised it would be valuable to meet again in July/August to progress issues raised that required discussion at the committee level and a date will be circulated.

Meeting closed at 5.10 pm