



MURRAY MALLEE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (MERCUNDA MINERAL SANDS)

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 6 March 2024 held at the Mindarie Site Office

Meeting commenced at 4.05 pm

Present:

Wendy Campana (Independent Chair)

Land owners: Kevin Heidrich, Darren Zadow, Jamie Evans, Fudd & Sharon Francis

District Council of Karoonda East Murray: Peter Bond (Acting CEO)

Landscape Murraylands & Riverland: Russell Norman

DEM: Greg Tyczenko

Murray Zircon (MZ): Ken Donaldson, Simon Hilder, Graham Hewson, Steve Cherrett, Joelle Hentschke

Tim Whetstone MP (via link)

Apologies:

Nil

1. Welcome & Introductions

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

2. Minutes & Actions from the Previous Meeting

The Minutes and Actions of the previous meeting held on 13 December were received as a true and accurate record.

The Chair updated members on the following actions:

- Membership:
 - RDA had been nonresponsive to confirming their interest in having a member on the Group, however it was noted that the approach was made during the Xmas period and scheduled meetings may have impacted on confirming the membership request. Council agreed to assist the Chair to gain a response.
 - Landscape Board had been approached but no confirmation had been given however Russell Norman (also a Cr with DC Karoonda East Murray) was a member of the Board and agreed to participate in this capacity
 - Discussion took place about the value of having a community (non-land owner) on the Group
- Terms of Reference (TOR) was distributed to members – no feedback received from members when emailed out after the meeting, but the Chair sought the following alterations that the members agreed to:
 - Membership – what do we do if membership positions required in the TOR are not able to be filled? Language to be adjusted to reflect invitation to RDA and Landscape Board.
 - Conflicts of Interest – agreed no changes to the TOR but put as a standing agenda item on each agenda
 - Conflict Resolution – the Chair prefers the word “determination” rather than “arbitration”
 - Questions on notice (item included in the Observers/Guests) section – a pro forma be developed by the Chair for completion and available on the website – process issue only – no need for a TOR change
 - Reporting – agreed that 5 days (in lieu of 7 days) be distribution and publishing of the agenda to members and the minutes; the Annual Report be on a “calendar year” basis meaning that the first annual report would be provided after the December period in each year.
- FAQs/Website – for discussion later in the agenda in the “community engagement” item
- MZ follow-ups – emergency and landowner issues/arrangements – Ken Donaldson to cover in the Project Update (Item 3)

3. Project Update

Ken Donaldson provided an update on the following matters:

- Since the last meeting MZ has dispatched its first shipment of HMC
- Around the same time MZ halted processing operations as a result of working outside of the licence agreement in that there was more overburden stockpiled than originally anticipated in the PEPR
- The overburden resulted from the start up pace, where mining got away very well, but the processing plant didn't, resulting in more overburden outside of the pit than planned
- Processing was reviewed in late January and MZ is still working through the Compliance Directive that only allows processing of stockpiled in pit ore, ie there is no removal of the overburden or exposing any more ore. There is about 700m of ore in the pit that is being processed during the licence review process.
- This down time of about 47 days was used to provide training and plant improvements. Training was undertaken in much larger classes than operating shifts would normally

permit, from confined space and rescue to snake handling to HV switching and loader operations

- All of these improvements are starting to pay off with MZ's best continuous run achieved in February
- MZ now has tail cells 1-4 backfilled with overburden, cell 5 dewatered and ready to backfill in preparation of returning topsoil, chicken manure on site, with return of topsoil later in March or early next month
- In line with IFCEs recommendations MZ has also covered sub and topsoil stockpiles with hydro mulch to protect them from wind erosion, completing all on the western side of Jacka Road and over half of those on the eastern side adjacent to the current operating pit
- MZ applied further mulching to an area that was of concern to the landowner (area discussed at previous landowner meeting)
- MZ is currently working with the Evans and Francis landowners on area requiring rehabilitation.
- As the ramping up of activities occur MZ has employed 19 new persons with over half of them coming from the local community within a 2 hr radius of the mine site
- Assistance was also provided to the CFS to extinguish a fire at a neighboring property

General questions/answers from the meeting:

Ken Hedrich raised a concern regarding continued drifting and the requirement to provide a draft update for DEM approval. Greg Tyczenko clarified that a revised PEPR had been submitted and was being assessed.

Discussions took place regarding the condition of the following roads:

- Walker Flat Road (DCKEM)
- Wanbi Road in the Mid Murray Council
- East Murray Area School Road (DCKEM)
- Knights Well Road

Peter Bond responded by indicating that the Walker Flat Road was a potential future submission for funding under the Special Local Roads Program.

The Chair indicated a potential conflict of interest as she is a Commissioner with the Local Government Grants Commission which makes recommendations to the State Local Government Minister with funding recommendations then put to the Federal Minister. She took the opportunity to explain to members of the Group the road funding process arrangements under this program.

Graham Hewson provided the following updates:

Summary of the Titanium Feedstock Market

- **Downturn:** The market has been declining since the COVID pandemic and faces additional pressure due to the Global political issues and China's slow construction recovery.
- **Supply & Demand:** Supply currently exceeds demand, and this situation is expected to continue until these key global issues recover.

MZ's HMC Production

- **Protection:** MZ's HMC (heavy mineral concentrate) benefits from some protection from the downturn due to a dedicated production purpose for our owners in China.
- **End Products:** The HMC is used to create various products, including:
 - Paints
 - Titanium metal
 - Zircon (used in ceramics & abrasives)
 - Toothpaste
 - Cosmetics
 - Dog food (as an additive)

Actions:

1. Grading of Roads around the Mining Areas - Programs of Councils – update to be provided at the next meeting by DCKEM and an invitation also be extended to Mid Murray Council
2. Tim undertook to raise the matter of regional roads with Minister Brock under his Regional Roads portfolio
3. Tour of the Mine for Members – arrangements to be made and an invitation extended for members to attend and to link this tour to a future meeting
4. A formal presentation be made to the next meeting of the general operations of the mine
5. Future meetings also include an economic update of the mining sector by MZ

4. Community Engagement Update

Members discussed the draft paper prepared by the Chair regarding the webpage information and FAQs.

Simon advised members that MZ was soon to appoint a Community Officer as a funded position by MZ. This person, when appointed, would become a member of the Group.

The following suggested inclusions came from the meeting:

- Include the haulage routes to be/being utilized
- Speed limits for the above routes

Discussion took place regarding inviting nominations for a further community stakeholder position with an emphasis on a non-landowner person. Tim advised that he would be happy to include in his newsletter information about the call for another person. An advert would also be placed in the local paper.

Agreed Actions:

- Chair to add in additional items for the community information and work with MZ to establish the webpage, including the FAQs
- Chair to prepare an advertisement for a further community person to join the Group, including a short piece to include in Tim Whetstone MP's local newsletter

5. Any Other Business

Discussion took place regarding the meeting time in light of the soon to be adjusted daylight saving. It was agreed that the meeting time remain at 4pm.

6. Next Meeting

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

Meeting closed at 5.10 pm