



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

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 11 December 2024 held at the Mindarie Site Office

Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm

### **Present:**

Wendy Campana (Independent Chair)

Landowners: Jamie Evans, Sharon Francis, Kevin Heidrich, Darren Zadow

DEM: Greg Tyczenko

Murray Zircon (MZ): Simon Hilder, Ken Donaldson, Chrystal Goodhand (via teams)

Landscape Board, Andrew Biele

Piers Gillespie – Landowner Facilitator - observer

### **Apologies:**

Apologies received from: Tim Whetstone MP, Raelene Heidrich, Scott Reardon (CEO, DC Karoonda East Murray)

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

The Chair thanked members for attending the meeting.

### **2. Conflicts of Interest**

None

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

The Minutes and Actions of the previous meeting held on 10 October 2024 were received as a true and accurate record.

Updates were provided on the following actions:

## Roads - Update

In Scott Reardon's (CEO, DCKEM) absence, he provided the following update via email that the Chair read out to members. Key matters raised at a previous meeting and responded to below were:

- DCKEM have been working closely with Mid-Murray Council (**MMC**) to review Walker's Flat Road and the road network adjacent to the Murray Zircon Mine (**MZ**). Upon review, I can confirm that our road maintenance works (undertaken in accordance with the Road Maintenance Agreement) are becoming insufficient to meet the increased needs - as current transport use is having a greater impact to the network than originally anticipated.
- In order to establish an evidence-based approach towards a resolution, DCKEM has deployed traffic counters, and MMC have conducted dilapidation testing; both of which confirm high transport use and escalated deterioration of the roads.
- Due to this, and DCKEM's restricted field resources to continually divert routine patrol grading from alternate locations to specifically address the increased need for MZ adjacent roads, DCKEM has only authorised a four-month extension to the MZ's NHVR permit (now expiring 12 June 2025) and MMC are in the process of doing the same.
- It is our view that over the course of the next few months DCKEM will work with MMC, MZ and the community to further review possible road pavement options, grant funding opportunities and potential alternate transport routes in order to establish a forward-thinking plan that will ensure everyone's needs can be met both now and for the longer term.
- A meeting has been scheduled between DCKEM and MZ for mid-January 2025. Both DCKEM and MMC's Councils will then consider options at respective workshops in early February 2025. After which, he will be more than happy to formally present to this Committee on findings and next steps.

Scott encouraged members to contact him in the interim, to answer any questions.

Further update items were:

- Murray Zircon support letter (email) to Jamie Evans request to Council regarding replacement of give way signs and installation of stop signs at the intersection of East Murray Area School Rd, Evans Rd and Walkers Flat
- CFS training – ongoing discussions
- Community engagement – covered later in the minutes

### **3. Mine Update**

Ken Donaldson provided an update on the operations of the mine advising that current priorities as confirmed with the Executive General Manager were:

- Safety
- Environment
- Production

More information was provided on each issue:

## **Safety**

This is MZ's utmost priority. MZ want everyone to be safe at work, and go home in the same condition that they came to work.

Unfortunately, there was an incident last Wednesday night, during activities to clean down equipment at the site. With the help of the Emergency Services, including the CFS, the injured employee was taken to Riverland General Hospital for assessment and observation and has since been released to recuperate at home. MZ has informed all relevant regulatory authorities and will assist with any reporting required, while also conducting its own investigation into the causes of this regrettable incident so that it does not re-occur: upon approval from Safework to resume operations and access the area, prior to resuming operations modifications were immediately made to the plant to remove the hazard.

Ken expressed MZ's sincere appreciation to the Emergency Services, including the CFS, for their help and professionalism. MZ have already received some preliminary feedback on opportunities to improve, and will be following up to capture all feedback from this, including that from the Emergency Services, to ensure improvements from these learnings.

## **Environment**

### Dust management

MZ have been working hard at reducing dust generated, some of the improvements undertaken are:

- Expediting the stockpiling of sub soils – additional mining contractor since mid November, dropped open area by over 50%
- Ran an additional water cart from early November (dedicated to the subsoil stripping area (prioritized this over the mining schedule, dig fleet production impacted)
- Second mining contractor have supplied their own water cart for the western end
- Employed a full time operator to man an additional water cart on truck loading , hmc and site entrance areas
- Hydromulching topsoil and the relevant subsoil stockpiles
- Revising our schedule to have smaller areas of subsoil exposed, reducing time to move into stockpiles
- Truck wheel wash commissioned and in use from 1 December to remove any product from trucks before leaving site
- Trucking schedule has been ramped up to reduce on site inventory

- Additional storage at port secured, ~500 containers
- Dust suppressant proving very effective on HMC stockpiles, have since received coloured batches
- Wind diffuser mesh, materials arriving now, installation to commence early next month, 480 m of plus 4m mesh (117m 6.5m, 363m 4.0m) around HMC area
- 4 x 50kL surge tanks being installed to improve use of water carts, two locations at process plant Bore 2 offtake, and Bore 3 on western side.

## **Production**

FSU relocation 14<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> October – on schedule, 9 day outage, recommissioning very successful with plant run 7 straight days afterwards until the next planned outage.

November production good, on the back of plant utilization record.

5<sup>th</sup> ship loading 30kt 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.

MZ plans to run through Christmas, next major outage mid-January when it will change a tank liner and some dewatering equipment.

Additional tails water reclaim – dedicated line established to recover tailings water direct to plant, improving use of recycled water and further reducing draw on bores.

Flocculant trials proving up well, not only reduction in quantities required, but an expected improvement in tailings water release time, which is likely to improve rehabilitation schedule.

Now planning return of overburden to maximise next year's rehabilitation season window.

Ken responded to questions from the Committee Members.

The Chair on behalf of Committee Members thanked Ken for his report at each meeting and the provision of notes for inclusion in the minutes.

## **5. Community Engagement Update**

Chrystal Goodhand showed members the update work that has occurred on the webpage since the last meeting. General discussion took place on potential enhancements and the conduct of a community event.

### Agreed actions:

- Include on the website the community member nomination form to join the committee in case interest is expressed;
- FAQs be included on the website regarding MZ's approach to: dust management; soil replacement/management; water usage/aquafer;

- A community event be held in March on a Friday late in the afternoon (to ensure optimum attendance) at the Muntung Hall (subject to availability). The event to provide an update on the MZ operations and introduce the community to the Consultative Committee, including its role/functions.
- Members to provide a photo to Chrystal and some bio details if not done already

The Chair, on behalf of Members, thanked Chrystal for her excellent work and the value this position was bringing to the work of our Committee.

#### **6. Any Other Business**

The Chair invited members to provide any feedback on issues to the Committee:

- DEM – Greg advised that the new CE was on board, Paul Martyn. Members welcomed a visit from Paul to a meeting of the Committee at some time in the future. Greg will alert the CE to this invitation.
- Jacka Road – alternative access points
- Piers Gillespie – provided an outline of his role in mediation between landowners and MZ

The Chair thanked the members of the Committee for their commitment and attendance at meetings and their willingness to raise issues and work to find solutions. She also wished members a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

#### **7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in March 2025, prior to the community event. Chrystal will advise of date/time when she has finalised this with the community hall.

Meeting closed at 7.05 pm