

ENSHAM RESIDUAL VOID STUDY
COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP
MEETING MINUTES

STANDING ITEMS

FORMALITIES

Date	Wednesday 4 th October 2017
Meeting Opened	2.30pm
Venue	Ensham Gatehouse – Duckponds Road Emerald

ATTENDEES

Position	Name
Independent Chair	Emma McCullagh (EM)
Minute Taker	Meghan Swift (MS)
Members	<p>Claire Rogers (CR) – CHRRUP (late arrival)</p> <p>Peter McTaggart (PMc) – SunWater</p> <p>Nigel Burnett (NB) – Central Highlands Cotton Growers and Irrigators Assn</p> <p>Carl Morawitz (CM) – Near Neighbour</p> <p>Hamish Millar (HM) – Near Neighbour</p> <p>Justin Fontana (JF) – Near Neighbour</p> <p>Nathan Johnson (NJ) – Fitzroy Partnership for River Health (Via Skype)</p> <p>Geoff Kavanagh (GK)– Community</p> <p>Councilor Megan Daniels (MD) – Community</p> <p>Councilor Alan McIndoe (AM) - Community</p>

Guests	Darryl Conway (DC) - SunWater
Ensham Representatives	Paul Green (PG)– General Manager Ensham Resources Neil Dale (ND) – Superintendent Environment - Ensham Dave Meyers (DM) – Manager Health Safety Environment and Training – Ensham

APOLOGIES

Position	Name
Ensham Representative	Dan Yates – Group Manager HSE (Idemitsu)
Ensham Representative	Paul Martinkus – Manager Project Studies (Idemitsu)

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

No previous minutes to be confirmed

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

No business arising from previous minutes

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair (EM) introduced herself as independent chair for the Community Reference Group (CRG). Introductions were then made by all attendees around the table each sharing their interest in being a part of the CRG.

2. QUESTIONS – BACKGROUND

The Chair asked if there were any questions at this point in the meeting. Paul Green (PG) mentioned that the site tour had been postponed for today, as machinery is busy fixing up roadways due to the rain event. The site tour will be organised for another date.

3. BACKGROUND PRESENTATION – ENSHAM RESOURCES – PAUL GREEN

PG presented a brief overview on the open cut and underground operations at Ensham Resources.

Presentation Summary:

- Graphics were displayed showing attendees the current mining lease.
- PG explained that Ensham has a comprehensive environmental management system in place, with 100 hectare of rehabilitation taking place this year (2017). He then mentioned that the field trip will give context to this.

- PG then discussed the open cut operating areas and that due to economics the life span of the Open Cut is drawing to a close. Slides were then shown to all attendees giving an overview of the mining processes used at Ensham in both open cut and underground.
- The Underground operation, based on Bord & Pillar methodology, causes no surface subsidence and no environmental harm.

Question	1. With the percent of downturn in the open cut, is Ensham loosing contractors and suppliers? 2. Would this reduce volume supplied to the Gladstone Power Station?
Response	PG – 1. yes, there will be some affect overtime as goods and services used in the OC operations are no longer required. 2. Volumes to the Gladstone Power station will remain and with the introduction of the 5 th production unit in the Underground overall volumes will counter the reduction from the Open Cut.
Status	Closed

4. RESIDUAL VOID STUDY – TERMS OF REFERENCE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT OF HERITAGE AND PROTECTION (EHP) – DAVE MEYERS

- DM gave an overview of what the Environmental Authority (EA) is, which is the principal legal document, explaining that it is a list of requirements set out by the government regarding environmental conditions that Ensham must operate to. This also includes how Ensham will plan to rehabilitate the disturbed land once mining ceases.
- An Ensham Rehabilitation Management Plan and Residual Void Management Plan were submitted to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) in March 2016. The plan was not accepted by EHP in April 2017. The EA conditions associated with the residual void became redundant and required renegotiation.
- A “Terms of Reference” (ToR) was developed and approved by EHP which details the actions required by and the outputs of the Residual Void Project (RV Project).

Question	Was the management of the voids in the original rehab management plan?
Response	Yes – the management of the voids has been a condition since the development of the Environmental conditions in the EA
Status	closed
Question	Is the reluctance to fill the void due to cost?
Response	PG responded, informing all attendees that the plan that was put forward was rejected by EHP due to EHP’s position that there was the need to fill the void. This escalated quite high in the business and government due to the associated costs of backfilling the voids. Essentially, to fill the void will increase the liability significantly putting Ensham at a high risk of going out of business. It has been negotiated for the government to give a study period to gain scientific evidence and community feedback to come up with a solution.
Status	closed

PG mentioned that Idemitsu is a Japanese company and are very sensitive to their reputation, especially when it comes to the environment as they don’t want to leave a bad legacy. The study period will allow Ensham time to find out if there is science that can help Ensham consider appropriate alternates. This group is important and we are open to all thoughts, ideas and challenges.

5. OPTIONS OVERVIEW - NEIL DALE

ND presented the three options that require further analysis during the study project. The options are based on industry examples within Australia and other regions of the world. These options are included in the approved ToR. The three options are;

- i. levee backfill,
- ii. engineered flood mitigation and irrigation,
- iii. and backfill to probable maximum flood (PMF).

The study will cover all voids.

Option 1 - Levee Backfill

- The option of retaining the existing levees and backfill overburden material behind and on top of levees to create a permanent landform which would be of substantial size.
- ND explained that the current flood protection levees are regulated and require annual inspections by a Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland (REPE) to ensure ongoing design integrity.

Question	Are you going to widen or narrow the width of the throat of the current levees on the river?
Response	PG – it is important to understand the impact of any potential change and therefore will be part of the study and further discussion with the CRG. However, there is no plan to make the distance of the throat of the levees less than they now.
Status	closed

Comment was made that some of the group are downstream farmers, so that is where their interests are.

Option 2 - Engineered Flood Mitigation and Irrigation

- The engineered flood mitigation option is to direct water flows during specified flood events into pit voids.
- The pits can then provide additional storage to allow the water to be released back into general use, post flood events.
- The major issue will be looking at controlling the water quality and ensuring it is suitable for its intended use.

Question	With this plan of water harvesting, once the mining is complete will there be someone else managing it?
Response	Concept is that it will be another water storage system and would not be run by Ensham after mining is finished.
Status	closed

Option 3 - Backfill to probable maximum flood (PMF).

- This option considers backfilling all the voids in the Nogoia river floodplain back up to PMF level
- Backfilling to PMF is not our preferred option due to associated cost with moving significant volumes of dirt and it would also require significant disturbance of areas already rehabilitated.
- This option must be considered in the study as the 'baseline case' as this is the preferred option by DEHP

BREAK FOR AFTERNOON TEA

All attendees returned to the meeting.

ND informed everyone that there are two issues with these scientific studies. One being that the options are feasible, and the other being that they meet the legal requirements.

6. UPDATE ON STUDY TOUR OF GERMANY – NEIL DALE

ND presented a summary of the Germany Pit Lakes Study Tour that took place in September 2017.

Presentation Summary:

- A study tour in Germany took place in September to allow them to look at mining operations and what they have done with voids once the mining has ceased.
- The government owned the mines and had to fund the rehabilitation of the mines.
- The goals are to find out what benefits these areas can have to the community. The primary uses for the land was used for farming, water parks and ecology.
- The key learnings from the Germany study tour is to think outside the box at possible ways the land can be used to get the best outcomes for all stakeholders.

Question Comment	Carl Morawitz (CM) stated that the practical solution would be to fence it and leave it. Then in years to come open it to the public as a recreational area.
Response	ND responded to CM informing him that if it was left as is and fence that the government are unlikely to allow Ensham to surrender the lease, meaning that they would be responsible forevermore for the land.
Status	Closed
Question Comment	CM responded that a lot of money will be put into this project that could be used to fund hospitals, universities.
Response	PG responded that the reality of this is that the government have rules that Ensham need to comply with. The intent is to not go too crazy either side. Idemitsu are committed to the study as they don't want to just leave it. The community doesn't accept " just leave it" however we don't want to be responsible for ongoing maintenance of anything after the life of the mine. We would like to look at a solution that has a sustainable outcome that will be of benefit to all stakeholders.
Status	Closed
Question	Where are we at with the study?
Response	PG stated that they are 80% complete on engaging consultants to perform the studies and undertake peer reviews to challenge the primary studies.
Status	closed
Question	How would the water harvest work physically?
Response	ND responded referring to the Study Tour of Germany stating that canals using gates systems to control inflow/outflow. Water will go in and when the flood event has gone past, then they would let the water flow out again.
Status	closed
Question	Will irrigation work, as it will need ongoing work to keep at capacity and ensure water quality. Is the study allowed on site to look at these options?
Response	Yes, this will be looked as part of the study.
Status	closed
Question	CM stated that he is concerned about the cost of this and that a budget must exist.
Response	PG responded that this is a budget for the study.
Status	Closed
Question	What is Financial Assurance?
Response	DM explained the purpose of financial assurance and that it is there for rehabilitation of disturbed land as a result of mining activities.
Status	Closed

7. CRG DRAFT CHARTER -EMMA MCCULLAGH

All attending received a copy of the CRG Draft Charter. EM (Chair) briefly went through the charter and asked for any feedback to be passed on to her. EM asked for members to contact her if they think of someone who they would like to attend or could add value to the CRG to contact her. There is a process for this in the charter.

Question	There is some concern that the studies are done in isolation and the reports will only be available on completion, not during the process.
Response	Include in the charter – 3 rd last point, interim updates. This will ensure that all members get timely reports of the studies. Include progressive updates, not at completion. Clearly state this in the scope.
Status	Action item for independent chair - Add to the objective that members receive regular updates during the study.

8. COMMENT REGARDING OBJECTIVES: MEETING DATES AND TIMES

EM asked if there was a particular day or time that suited members to meet.

Cr Megan Daniels stated that afternoons suit her. No other members responded.

EM stated that meetings will a 2-hour timeframe, with the option of Skype and the location of the meeting being flexible.

Some studies are due to be complete around the end of November / early December that can be discussed at the next meeting.

PG and DM mentioned that the site tour can be a standalone visit as looking at the voids will take approximately an hour, with additional time to be allocated to look at rehabilitation.

9. COMMUNICATION POINTS

EM asked if there were any further questions from the meeting.

Question	Nathan Johnson (NJ) asked to confirm the what documentation is confidential.
Response	PG responded that all confidential material will be marked 'Confidential'
Status	closed
Question	NJ asked if Ensham could look at hiring a graphic designer to spend time on developing material for the wider community.
Response	Ensham would consider
Status	EM to discuss with Ensham the possibility of providing a graphic designer to prepare documentation for the average person.

DM discussed the progress of the webpage, that is nearly complete and hoping to have up and running in the coming weeks.

ND mentioned that the size of some of the documents are quite large and asked if it would be substantial for members to receive digital copies or if a hard copy is required? It was decided that digital copies are sufficient and if anyone is unable to download the documents, to contact EM.

EM asked for all members to review the CRG Draft Charter and will revisit at the next meeting to finalise the draft.

PG asked for any feedback to please be passed on to EM. Ensham are very open to constructive criticism.

EM asked that any direct questions to be sent to her, she will then distribute as required to ensure all questions are answered.

MEETING CLOSED

Time: 5.07pm

Next Meeting Date: TBA

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS FROM 4TH OCTOBER 2017

Item No.	Action Detail	Person Responsible	Due Date
1	Clearly state in the scope that members are to receive progressive updates on studies, not on completion.	Emma McCullagh	Next Meeting
2	Discuss with Ensham the possibility of providing a graphic designer to prepare documentation for the average person.	Emma McCullagh	Next Meeting