

NCIG Community Engagement Group (CEG) – Meeting Minutes

Meeting No: 14

Thursday 18 April 2024 5:00 -7:41pm

Location: NCIG Training Room

Attendees:

Community Representatives

Alison Rigby (AR)
John Hayes (JH)
Rick Banyard (RB)
Alan Blanch (AB)
Lyn Kilby (LK)

NCIG Representatives

Nathan Juchau (NJ) – Manager Sustainability
Wade Covey (WC) – Environment and Sustainability Lead
Carly Parmenter (CP) – Communications and Engagement Lead
Peter Madden (PM) - Environment and Sustainability Officer
Aaron Arthur (AA) – Manager Projects

Apologies: Nil

(Note: Kenny Barry & Lindsay Clout to be removed from future invite list due non-attendance & non-response over last 12-24 months)

Item 1: Welcome and Meeting Minute Review

NJ welcomed attendees to the meeting. Asked if members had any comments or feedback on the previous minutes. Consensus was minutes from the previous meeting were accurate, no changes required.

- One action remains open from previous meeting being the consideration of an expression of support from NCIG around concerns of the composition of the Hunter Environment Advisory Group (HEAG). The view of CEG members is the HEAG needs more representation from public. NCIG still supportive of the matter in principal but at this stage action is considered closed until CEG members their desired approach to this matter.

Item 2: Business and Operations Update

- AA provided an overview of NCIG's longest shutdown to date, spanning 32 days. It was the Dump Station 1 rail beam remediation which was successfully completed in March 2024.
- NJ provided the CEG with an update on business/operational matters since the last meeting including the implementation of the new vision and purpose and how the Integrated Business Plan is integrated into day-to-day business.
- NJ presented on the recently completed materiality assessment. The goal of the assessment was to find out what ESG topics were important, from our stakeholder's point of view, for NCIG to consider. The assessment had great response rate with ~80% of the stakeholders responding to

the survey. The materiality matrix showed that for the community stakeholder group, environmental compliance, safety, incident management were among the highest priority topics. Decarbonisation was rated the lowest however the comments showed the level of action NCIG was taking was about as much as is expected by stakeholders. The assessment assists NCIG in prioritising areas where NCIG may need to focus and/or where it may need to address in its business plans.

- NJ provided an overview of the current coal market dynamics. China has re-entered the market and comprises a significant proportion of NCIG exports for HY24 (28%). Looking forward, thermal exports are predicted to decline from 2029 while expansion and continuation of mines are expected to increase.
- NJ presented on the Rising Tide port blockade which was held in November 2023. Appx 3000 people participated in the overall event, 109 arrested however minimal convictions resulting from court proceedings. Another port blockade event is planned in November 2024. The primary concern from NCIG, and the broader industry, is primarily people putting themselves at risk.

Item 3: Sustainability Update

- WC provided a Sustainability Update which included:
 - No reportable incidents since the previous meeting
 - One external enquiry was received via EPA regarding a concern raised by a resident in Stockton/Fern Bay area relating to increased accumulation of what they believe to be coal dust on the roof and house surfaces over the last couple of years. NCIG provided a response to the EPA outlining the dust monitoring system in place over the period.
 - Vehicle electrification – 3 new fast chargers installed and commissioned on site. One in employee area. Procurement of 4 new electric SUV's planned for May.
 - Energy Management Working Group: Engagement with staff on site to implement energy efficiency projects and track site efficiency. Expecting to achieve 6.5% efficiency improvement by end FY24. Currently establishing FY25-27 efficiency targets.
 - Save Our Species Green and Golden Bell Frog Project: NCIG entered a 3-year partnership with NPWS to construct up to 28 artificial cluster pond habitats on Ash Island. The aim of the project is to increase habitat connectivity across the island.
 - Hunter Bird Observers Club Shorebird Monitoring at Deep Pond: Significant presence of migratory shorebirds in December 2023. Included critically endangered Curlew Sandpiper, endangered Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit and Siberian (lesser) Sand-Plover.
- CP presented on recent community activities which included:
 - The March Community Support Program which received over 90 applications. Over 30 grants were awarded funding.
 - NCIG involvement in smaller events included Christmas hampers for seafarers, congratulating women graduating a first aid course run through Zara's House, Santa visited children at the Home Start Christmas party, Doggy Dates were engaged to distribute the NCIG biannual newsletter and partnering with Jesmond Lions Club to fund a defibrillator at the Hunter Wetlands Centre.
 - Through the NCIG Community Partnership Program (CPP) we supported the following events;

- Newcastle Jets Community Participation Clinics were provided to local organisations. The clinics offer children an opportunity to meet our local soccer superstars and develop their football skills. We provided clinics to Home Start and First Chance with a final clinic scheduled next week for the children of NCIG employees.
- Launched the inaugural NCIG-HunterWiSE Scholarship for Women in STEM scholarships at the University of Newcastle. Two \$8,000 scholarships seek to entice young women to see their STEM degree through and enter into the workforce, for the betterment of all.
- Spin 4 Kids—our 10th consecutive year supporting Variety. We once again were the major sponsor and provided 24 hours of a \$ for \$ match (capped at \$10K) to effectively encourage fundraising from the community.

Item 4 - General Discussion/Meeting Close

- CP: The recently created insurance video was presented to the CEG. During a recent site visit a comment was made by an insurer that NCIG's fire security control testing is above industry standard. Creating a video of our testing measures in action provides an opportunity to showcase the site's risk management practices to insurers and potentially reduce costs on insurance premiums.
- CP: CEG Terms of Reference review completed. A hard copy of the new Terms of Reference will be distributed alongside the meeting minutes. Any questions or concerns can be addressed to Carly Parmenter directly.
- WC: Hydrogen update on publicly available information around the green hydrogen initiatives in the Port. WC advised that links to the available information would be included in the presentation slide pack. Origin and Orica both shortlisted for head start funding through the state government.
- JH: Hunter Community Alliance (HCA) inaugural meeting. The group is comprised of various sub-communities including church groups, unions, disability groups and environmental groups. **JH to provide notes for these meeting minutes.** The aim of the meeting was to understand what is important for each group. State and local government invited. Fed Minister for Environment attended and asked about a transition authority for people moving from coal jobs. Will meet again with HCA in 12 months. Overall, the meeting was highly rated and well organised.
- RB: Transport for NSW (TfNSW) are undertaking a [Freight Policy Reform Program](#). A [Consultation Paper](#) was released and included discussion questions which TfNSW have invited submissions from key stakeholders. Briefing session next Wednesday (24/4/24) 12-2pm. RH stressing support from industry.
- Future meetings planned for 22 August and 28 November 2024
- Meeting closed 7:40pm.