

NCIG Community Engagement Group (CEG) – Meeting Minutes

Meeting No: 4

Thursday 28th May 2020 5.00-7:00pm

Location: Via Video Conference

Attendees:	Community Representatives	NCIG Representatives
	John Hayes	Nathan Juchau – Manager HSEC
	Rick Banyard	Barry Arens – Operations Manager
	Lyn Kilby	Scott Grunsell – Acting Environmental Advisor
	Catherine Blanch	Hayley Ardagh – Graduate Environment and Sustainability
	Alan Blanch	Brooke Stevenson – Persona Communications

Apologies received: Lindsay Clout, Mark Warren, Kenny Barry

Item 1: Welcome and Meeting Minute Review

- Hayley Ardagh (HA) welcomed the group to the meeting
- Nathan Juchau (NJ) provided a quick overview of the structure of the meeting and reviewed actions from previous meeting.

Item 2: General Business and Operations Update

- NJ provided an update on COVID-19 controls and the way that NCIG are continuing to operate. Essential personnel are on site, with majority of office staff working from home. Staff will begin to return to site 2-3 days per week from June, however all other hygiene and management protocols are to remain in place until further notice. Catherine Blanch (CB) questioned the flexibility of working from home in future. NJ noted that working from home has been a change to the business and staff are continuing to work effectively from home using online forms of communication. It was noted that although the idea is to have staff return to work in a full capacity when restrictions relax, working from home is likely to be an option to staff in the future.
- John Hayes (JH) questioned the use of stand-up desks and ergonomic safety for staff. NJ noted that staff have been able to take office equipment home, including stand-up desks etc. It was also mentioned that staff were provided an online ergonomic assessment to prevent any injuries. Alan Blanch (AB) enquired about whether NCIG had experienced any security issues working from home. NCIG have an extensive security system in place that has recently been upgraded and no security issues have been encountered (NJ).
- Rick Banyard (RB) questioned whether NCIG were required to utilise the Government JobKeeper initiative. Barry Arens (BA) noted that all NCIG staff have remained employed full time and contractors are continuing to work on site as usual, whilst maintaining social distancing and increased hygiene practices.
- An operations update and overview of recent maintenance projects was provided by BA. NCIG had a new daily inbound record in May and have experienced consistent demand over the previous months. CB questioned conflicting media reports regarding a reduction of coal exports in recent months. BA clarified that NCIG have maintained throughput in recent months as a result of NCIG's dedicated stockyard, allowing customers to utilise the capacity on site effectively.

- An update of the Dump Station Automation Project was provided by BA. The use of the coal hang-up detection lasers was discussed in detail. The lasers are able to identify coal hang-up in each wagon using lidar technology. It was noted that the roles of two Dump Station Operators have been re-deployed into the Maintenance Department.
- RB questioned whether the new technology can pick up coal on external surfaces of the wagon. BA clarified that the technology is only able to detect coal-hang up internally, although we will continue to use the current monitoring and reporting system to detect residual coal issues. It was explained that a range of different technologies were investigated for this project, although due to the colour and variable surface of the wagons, lidar technology was the best option. However, it is limited to the detection of coal hang-up (tonnes) rather than parasitic coal (kgs) which may remain on the wagon after complete unloading.
- An overview of a number of recent maintenance projects was provided by BA. Since the previous meeting in January, a number of projects had been completed including the Stacker Reclaimer 2 (SR02) and wharf painting project, to maintain the integrity of the steel. The use of encapsulation as sand blasting and weather control was discussed. Photos and details of the recent buffer bin deflector chute replacement were also provided to the group.

Item 3: Environment Update

- NJ provided an update on the recycled water feasibility project, as discussed in the previous meeting. A consultant has been engaged on behalf of NCIG to investigate a number of factors including the suitability of the water on piping infrastructure, water quality requirements for human health, infrastructure requirements and further analysis of water demand. Lyn Kilby (LK) noted that it is worthwhile to investigate water savings measures and water is still an important topic for the community.
- An update of the Dust Management Project was provided to the group by NJ. Veneering continues to be used as a dust management tool in preparation for large wind events. Dust management programming updates are also being developed to provide advanced forecasting for operational planning and improved notifications. BA discussed the stockpile relocation project currently underway. Stockpiles containing coal of higher dust risk are being moved to locations of the stockyard that are less exposed to NW winds.
- NCIG's dust performance in a recent extreme wind event was discussed. NJ displayed graphs to the group highlighting improved performance during a three-day wind event, reaching an average of 13-16 m/s in peak periods. It was noted that dust management continues to be at the forefront of operational priorities.
- A recent spontaneous combustion event was discussed, and a video was shown to the group. It was noted that the recent event did not result in any material impact to vessel safety, air quality or odour, however it provided an opportunity to speak to the community members about this phenomenon. NJ provided details of what spontaneous combustion is and how it's managed at NCIG. The residency time of coal in the stockyard is routinely monitored and reported. BA explained that NCIG primarily manage the occurrence of spontaneous combustion by limiting the residency period on site and restricting actions on stockpiles as time limits are reached. Regular visual and thermal imaging inspections are also undertaken throughout the stockyard to identify any stockpiles with increasing temperatures. JH questioned the limit at which ships can't be loaded as a result of high temperatures. BA explained that ships can't be loaded if the coal reaches 55°C. At this stage water addition is required to cool the coal down prior to loading onto a vessel.
- HA provided the group details of a recent Green and Golden Bell Frog (GGBF) breeding event around site. Over recent months more than 400 GGBF, along with 5 other frog species, have been relocated around the terminal. This looks to be the biggest GGBF breeding event since

operations began at NCIG. Additionally, breeding has also been confirmed in the NCIG Compensatory Habitat on Ash Island. A summary of frog-related research activities at NCIG and at the Compensatory Habitat was discussed with the group.

Item 4: Modification Update

- NJ provided the group with an update on the progress of the Modification. As community members were aware, NCIG lodged a modification to the Project Approval to increase throughput capacity from 66 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) to 79 MTPA. Majority of the submissions were positive, and objective submissions largely based on opposition to coal in general or due to external issues outside of NCIG's control.
- The next steps involve preparing a report for the Department, responding to all issues raised.
- AB noted that recent bad weather, which required outbound operations to be ceased for a number of days, highlights the need to be able to flex up and down as required.
- JH questioned the impact of a recent announcement from China in relation to a reduction in coal imports. BA mentioned that this situation has happened in the past and noted that China isn't the largest export destination of coal from Newcastle.

Item 5: Community Update

- An update on recent community activities was provided to the group. NJ mentioned that due to COVID-19 NCIG's community open day will be postponed to later in the year. It was also noted that community site tours are currently paused.
- Recent community funding was discussed, with an overview of the recipients provided. \$145,000 has been provided to organisations providing essentials services to the community during these difficult times. A recent three-year partnership was also recently announced with Mission to Seafarers.
- The next round of the Community Support Program will be open for applications in September.

Meeting Close

- The next CEG Meeting will occur in approximately 4 months – date and time to be confirmed.
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