

NCIG Community Engagement Group (CEG) – Meeting Minutes

Meeting No: 8

Thursday 26 May 2022 5:00-6:30pm

Location: NCIG Training Room

Attendees:	Community Representatives	NCIG Representatives
	Alan Blanch	Wade Covey – Environment and Sustainability Lead
	Catherine Blanch	Josh Wilson – Logistics Superintendent
	John Hayes	Hayley Ardagh – Environmental Officer
	Lyn Kilby	
	Rick Banyard	

Apologies: Nathan Juchau, Lindsay Clout, Kenny Barry

Item 1: Welcome and Meeting Minute Review

- Hayley Ardagh (HA) welcomed the group and provided an overview of the agenda. The outstanding action from the previous meeting was discussed (seeking a member from Stockton to join the group). Expressions of interest have been sent to Stockton Community Group (SCG) and a number of other local community groups. A member of SCG will join CEG meetings moving forward.
- HA introduced Josh Wilson (JW), NCIG's Logistic Superintendent, to the group. JW joined the group to provide an update on shipping and logistics questions previously asked by the group.

Item 2: General Business and Operations Update

COVID-19 Update

- Wade Covey (WC) provided an update on COVID-19 controls at NCIG. NCIG have introduced a Vaccination Policy on site, which applies to all employees, visitors and contractors. The daily Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) program has now finished. Conservative illness management practices will be the focus ongoing to avoid potential spread around site.

Operational Update

- JW provided an update on vessel queue trends over the last 6 months in response to Rick Banyard's (RB) question from the previous meeting. A number of different weather events have caused a trend of periodic high vessel queues in recent months. The trend has recently returned back to normal levels. The term 'fresh water' at the port was explained. Fresh water conditions resulting from rain events inland can cause buoyancy issues for vessels, which may require vessel plan changes. This can sometimes lead to port restrictions and vessel limitations.
- Rick Banyard (RB) asked if NCIG's Shiploading rates have been sustained since the previously spoken about optimisation project. JW confirmed that the optimisation rates from the SL optimisation project have continued to show improved efficiency. In late November 2021 NCIG had a new recorded for the fastest loaded vessel since operations commenced.

- John Hayes (JH) asked about the amount of debris from the floods in recent months, and if this has caused any issues. JW confirmed debris is no longer an issue for vessel movements, although it was earlier in the year.

Business Update

- WC provided an update on general business items:
 - In December 2021 NCIG reached the milestone of loading its 500 millionth tonne on a vessel.
 - The recently filmed Shiploader Recovery video was shown to the group. The video provides an overview of the project, including the learnings and improvements that have since been implemented.
 - A hard copy of the 2021 Sustainability Report was provided to the group. WC explained that NCIG had commenced planning the next report.
 - The climate activist protestor event in November 2021 was discussed. NCIG has since completed a security review and may implement additional security measures.
 - A summary of recent and upcoming scheduled maintenance projects was provided, including the protective coatings program, wharf pile wrapping, SR03 bucket wheel and gearbox replacement, CV01 belt replacement and the SL02 VSD replacement.
 - NCIG's latest employee health and wellbeing program (Bounce Challenge) was undertaken in November and December 2021. The challenge encouraged employees and contractors to get moving for 30 minutes a day, compete with other teams and socially connect online while many staff were working from home.
 - A mental health workplace audit was undertaken in 2021. NCIG have recently engaged a new Mental Health Partner to assist in the delivery of its Mental Health Strategy over the next few years.

Coal Market Update

- A brief summary of the current coal market was provided by WC. The coal market spot price has continued to increase rapidly over recent months.
- WC spoke about the coal long-term outlook/future projections. Explained that Australia's high-rank coal growth was forecast to remain resilient against the global market supply until the 2040s.

Item 3: Sustainability Update

- WC provided an update on NCIG's Sustainability Strategy. A framework for the strategy has been developed focusing on Customers, Governance, People & Culture, Plant & Environment and Community & Stakeholders. WC provided an overview of NCIG's 2024 Sustainability Targets across the focus areas. These are also available on NCIG's website.

Item 4: Environment and Community Update

- WC provided an update on environment and community topics:
 - A summary overview of the 12 monthly rainfall at NCIG was provided. NCIG has received more rainfall in the 2022 YTD than the total annual rainfall in 2019.
 - The outcomes of NCIG's recently completed three-yearly Independent Environmental Audit were provided. The audit found that NCIG had maintained a high level of compliance and environmental performance was of a high standard. Overall, 95 conditions of NCIG's Project Approval were classified as Compliant/Not Triggered, with 2 low risk and 2 minor administrative non-compliances identified. Actions to remedy the non-compliances have been or are in the process of being implemented.

- The successful applicants of the most recent round of NCIG's Community Support Program (CSP) were announced to the group. Lyn Kilby (LK) mentioned that there is need to better help the adolescent mental health and there is nothing currently out there for teenagers. WC confirmed NCIG will take this on board and see what community organisations/programs may be beneficial.
- NCIG have procured an electric vehicle to trial on site. A project team will work to assess options for the electrification of NCIG's vehicle fleet to meet its Net Zero emissions target by 2030.
- NCIG is currently working to establish an internal Energy Efficiency Working Group. The purpose of the group is to assist with identifying, assessing and helping drive energy management initiatives on site. The working group will assist with enhancing NCIG's Energy Management Strategy which was developed in 2021.
- NCIG's new website has recently gone live. WC encouraged the group to take a look and provide any feedback.
- The recycled water project has recently commenced construction. The project will supply NCIG with up to 1.5ML of treated wastewater from the Advanced Water Treatment Facility at Steel River daily. The treatment process consists of a membrane filtration system and reverse osmosis plant. The project aims to reduce NCIG's potable water usage by 50% annually, improving business resilience particularly during times of drought and water restrictions.

Meeting Close

- HA noted that the dates for the next CEG Meeting for the remainder of the year are proposed to be Thursday 8 September and Thursday 8 December 2022.
- NCIG will likely host a site tour prior to the next CEG meeting to show new members around the site. Current members are welcome to join for a refresher.
- HA requested the group to let NCIG know if there are any particular topics they may be interested in for future meetings.