

NCIG Community Engagement Group (CEG) – Meeting Minutes
Meeting No: 10
Thursday 8 December 2022 5:00-6:30pm
Location: NCIG Training Room

Attendees:	Community Representatives	NCIG Representatives
	Alan Blanch	Nathan Juchau – Manager HSEC
	Alison Rigby	Wade Covey – Environment and Sustainability Lead
	Catherine Blanch	Hayley Ardagh – Environmental Officer
	John Hayes	

Apologies: Luke Brouwer, Kenny Barry, Lindsay Clout, Lyn Kilby, Rick Banyard.

Item 1: Welcome and Meeting Minute Review

- Hayley Ardagh (HA) welcomed attendees to the meeting.
- Nathan Juchau (NJ) commenced the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda.
- There were no questions/objections on the previous meeting minutes

Item 2: General Business and Operations Update

- NJ provided an update on business/operational items:
 - An updated overview of coal demand analysis. Explained that the price of thermal coal had for the first time in years exceeded the price of coking coal on the spot market.
 - Graphs show there is viable demand for high quality thermal coal in the future although market forecasting is showing this to reduce over time.
 - COP 27 occurred since we last met. Australia is looking to host COP31, which may drive further climate predictions/action.
 - The coal price is continuing to remain high. There continues to be a large price difference between the high kCal coal out of Newcastle. NCIG has started to see an emphasis of coal quality over quantity through the terminal. The high prices were allowing NCIG's shippers to pay down their operational debt quicker reducing the risk to their businesses.
 - A discussion on recent operational matters, including the latest production trends at NCIG. Presented summary of the NCIG's latest refinancing process which was successful. Explained NCIG's debt amortisation strategy. Explained that the new amortisation structure allowed for NCIG to pay down its debt over a shorter period.
 - AB noted that many new high efficiency power stations require the high-quality coal and will continue to rely on it into the future.
 - NCIG hosted the Shofu Maru in October. The Shofu Maru is the first bulk carrier to include hard sail wind challenger technology. The vessel was safely loaded at the terminal without incident.
 - The planned industrial action from Svitzer caused some operational changes/responses due to the planned strike action. NCIG was forced to modify its vessel movements due a Port wide

shutdown in response to the planned action. Fortunately, the action was not extended and operations were able to resume following a Fairwork commission ruling.

- JH has heard there is two licences for tugboats in Newcastle, but no one has taken the licence up. NJ advised we were not aware of the licensing matters.
- NJ explained that NCIG is updating its Vision and Mission to be a Purpose and Vision. The update is required as the previous Mission and Purpose suited the terminal during the construction phase but was not relevant for their current phase of operations. The new Purpose and Vision will be developed in consultation with our workforce and is planned to be finalised over the next 6 months.
- A vessel (The Costanza) was detained at NCIG in November due to Crew Welfare Issues. NJU explained that it was reported in the local media and that the CEG may have heard about on the news. NJ explained that NCIG assisted the relevant authorities to access the vessel and work through the issues to ensure that the crew welfare issues were resolved.

Item 3: Environment and Community Update

- WC – Provided an overview of NCIG’s recently released FY22 Sustainability Report (launched in October). Key highlights included 50.1MT loaded, 1st in peer industry group ESG benchmark and \$303,000 in community support.
- JH asked if NCIG has publicly available information to share with the broader community. WC explained that all of the information was publicly available on our website including any media releases.
- NJ explained that NCIG has been on a journey and is committed to transparency with all of its stakeholders around its performance and our documentation.
- WC asked the community members to provide any feedback on the new website as we always appreciate any feedback from our community, particularly when it comes to externally facing information.
- JH made a point that local industry needed to share incident learnings more often. NJ and WC agreed. NJ explained that industry regulators often share industry wide alerts but NCIG also meets with PWCS regularly to discuss incidents and operational challenges.
- NJ provided an overview of dust management at NCIG (refer to presentation for detail).
- WC provided an overview of NCIG’s ESG performance. NJ explained that NCIG was fortunate enough to win an award from ICG in December for outstanding ESG performance.
- AB asked if trains are veneered. NJ explained that in most cases they weren’t and provided history of rail corridor dust studies. John also added information as he was previously involved in the citizen science study. The Hunter region doesn’t currently veneer trains as data has shown that typically in the Hunter dust issues occur more often on unloaded wagons due to a number of factors.
- WC provided an overview of the recent EPA and DPE site tours and environmental licence review undertaken on site. NJ explained that it was a thorough process and was complimentary of the regulatory departments in their approach to NCIG.
- WC explained that NCIG had recently commenced a review of its ship loader cleaning practices in response to a series of industry related incidents.

- WC provided an update on NCIG's recycled water project. WC explained that construction had been completed and that first water was expected in January for commissioning purposes. First commercial supply was planned for February/March 2023.
- JH asked about drone use. While NCIG doesn't use drones as a routine task, we do use on occasion for integrity inspections. However we are currently undertaking a review of all technology on site to identify opportunities to better use technology, such as drone. The review has identified a range of activities which could be done with drones over more traditional methods.

General Discussion/Meeting Close

- WC and NJ explained that this was Hayley's last CEG meeting as she was leaving NCIG to travel around the world. NJ explained that Hayley came to NCIG as a graduate before being promoted to full time position and was a massive asset to NCIG and will be missed. NJ and the CEG thanked Hayley for our assistance and involvement in the CEG over the previous years and wished her all the best for the future.
 - John Hayes – Hydrogen. JH discussed recent information sessions he had been to regarding hydrogen on Kooragang Island. HA confirmed that JH's email had been sent out with the meeting minutes.
 - JH suggested to include hydrogen on the agenda moving forward. NJ agreed that we could add it. **Action: NCIG to add Hydrogen update to agenda for future meetings.**
 - The next CEG meeting is planned for Thursday 6 April 2022.
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