

**NCIG Community Engagement Group (CEG) – Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting No: 12**  
**Thursday 24 August 2023 5:00 -7:00pm**  
**Location: NCIG Training Room**

<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Community Representatives</b>	<b>NCIG Representatives</b>
	Alison Rigby (AR) Lyn Kilby (LK) John Hayes (JH) Rick Banyard (RB)	Nathan Juchau (NJ) – Manager Sustainability Wade Covey (WC) – Environment and Sustainability Lead Carly Parmenter (CP) – Communications and Engagement Lead Aaron Johanson (AJ) – Chief Executive Officer

**Apologies:** Kenny Barry, Lindsay Clout, Alan Blanch, Peter Madden.

#### 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 among the group that the minutes were accurate and that they be finalised. WC explained that all actions from the previous minutes had been completed. Catherine Blanch was very appreciated of the flowers that were sent her as a thankyou from the CEG for her participation on the committee over the past few years.

#### Item 2: Business and Operations Update

- AJ provided the CEG with update on business/operational matters since the last meeting:
  - Strong performance against FY23 objectives and targets through the year which was pleasing. Majority of targets were reached. Missed our safety target as a result of two minor injuries recorded (minor shoulder strain and foreign matter in eye). AJ provided an overview of a material process incident that occurred which involved the stacking of coal to an incorrect stockpile location. Explained that the investigation identified a series of improvements that have been implemented to prevent a repeat occurrence. Also discussed the target and performance around absenteeism and the fact that conservative illness management remained a strong focus for NCIG following COVID. Discussed the progress around the review of NCIG's asset management plans. LK asked if trees around the site were considered as assets. NJ/AJ explained that while they were considered important from an aesthetic point of view they weren't defined as an asset as these were related to physical structures on site.
  - Provided an overview of NCIG's new Vision and Purpose and the recent team retreats. Explained that the new Vision and Purpose was for a 10-year timeframe.
  - AJ provided an overview of the FY24 strategic business priorities and initiatives. RB asked if NCIG considered all markets and changes to products over time. AJ explained that NCIG was committed to coal at the moment but was open to future opportunities in this area.
  - Good year operationally overall. AJ explained that FY23 was one of our lowest coal throughput years however with 44.7Mt. Was mainly as a result of a focus on coal quality over volume and

wet weather impacts at our customers operations. This is forecast to change over the next few years though with production expected to get back to historical levels.

- Provided an overview of the recently completed customer engagement survey. Explained that our customers had rated NCIG really highly which was pleasing. The survey did identify areas for improvement which NCIG was committed to working toward in the future.
- Provided an overview of global coal markets from Wood Mackenzie. Explained that high quality thermal coal was still projected to play a significant role in the global energy mix over the next couple of decades, particularly within developing countries in the Asian region.

### Item 3: Sustainability Update

- NJ commenced the Sustainability Update
  - Provided an overview of the protester activity/direct action undertaken by Blockade Australia during June. Explained that NCIG was directly targeted with a protester breaking in through our boundary fence and gluing herself to a handrail on one of our machines. NJ explained that while NCIG recognises and appreciates an individual's rights to protest we do not support direct action that endangers the lives of our workers or the protesters themselves.
  - Provided an overview of NCIG's FY23 ESG performance. Explained that we narrowly missed our recycling target during the year which was disappointing but that NCIG had recognised improvements to be undertaken in FY24 to improve recycling performance. We also missed our safety target as previously described.
  - NCIG had successfully achieved all other sustainability targets throughout the year which was a great result. Particularly, the community engagement target with around 70 employees actively participating in community events during the year. LK asked how many employees NCIG had at the moment. AJ advised that the current figure was around 108.
  - Planning for NCIG's next sustainability strategy (FY25 – FY28) has commenced. Explained that a business decision had been made to combine the site business strategy and sustainability strategy as the current Sustainability Strategy stands separate to the business strategy.
  - Provided an overview of NCIG's FY24 Sustainability Projects and Initiatives. Discussed NCIG's Net Zero Transition Plan for GHG emissions, stakeholder engagement framework, diversity and inclusion roadmap.
  - Provided an overview of external enquiries/complaints since the last meeting. Two dust related enquiries received from the EPA following adverse weather events. One was in response to a complaint received from a resident in Stockton. WC explained the process followed by NCIG in response to an enquiry. Outlined that NCIG had provided a response to the EPA for both enquiries detailing our dust management actions undertaken during both events.
  - GGBF surveys continued by University of Newcastle across the island. Explained that NCIG had recently partnered with NPWS to financially support the additional cluster ponds to be installed to further improve connectivity and GGBF habitat on the island. NCIG has committed \$80,000 over the next 3 years towards the project.
  - Hunter Bird Observers Club reported good sightings of migratory shorebirds in Area E during the last 6 months. Whimbrels recorded for the first time in Area E which is pleasing to see.

- Fox control program scheduled to start in 2023. Results are showing a decline over last six seasons in NCIG managed areas which indicates a decline in fox population which is a great result.
- NCIG has recently completed a mangrove removal campaign at Area E to maintain/enhance shorebird habitat. Around 7200 seedlings were removed from the area during the latest campaign.
- Discussed the recent pond cleanout campaign on site. Around 1500 cubic meters of coal fines removed. Explained that the fines are removed by excavators and trucks and placed in designated drying beds. The dried product is then reused as saleable product by adding it to a shipment.
- Explained that NCIG has successfully retained its ISO certification for ISO 14001 (Environmental Management Systems) and ISO 45001 (OHS Systems).
- Overview of community engagement and investment activities undertaken since the last meeting. Provided an overview of the NCIG Community and Family Open Day. Over 400 people visited the site on the day. Activities and site tours coordinated to provide family and community members an opportunity to see the site firsthand. LK explained that she was involved in the GLOW International Men's evening being held on 16th November. Theme for this year's event is Zero Male Suicide. **LK to distribute information on the event to CEG members.**
- CP provided an overview of the upcoming community activities. These included, MTS Gala Dinner, Lifeline World Suicide Prevention Day walk, GYBS community cook-offs and the I run for Her campaign.
- CP advised that NCIG were getting ready for the September CSP round which opens on 1<sup>st</sup> September. CP explained that NCIG were hoping to have another strong application rate for the next CSP round.

#### Item 4 - General Discussion/Meeting Close

- CEG Terms of Reference
  - CP explained that NCIG was looking to refresh the existing CEG Terms of Reference as the previous version was quite old (2019). CP will update the terms of reference and send out a draft version for comment ahead of the next CEG meeting. **NCIG to distribute the updated TOR to the CEG members ahead of the next meeting.**
- Containerised Coal
  - RB provided a summary of the information he had sent through regarding the utilisation of containerised coal around the world. Discussed that the process of containerised coal could have benefit in Australia for markets around the world. RB was keen for NCIG to understand if this could be an option for NCIG's customers in the future. **NCIG to review information sent through by RB for applicability to future site operations.**
- Hydrogen Update
  - WC provided an overview of publicly available information regarding the Orica/Origin Hydrogen project and Port of Newcastle's Energy Precinct. Explained that community drop-in sessions had been organised for anyone wanting more information on the Clean Energy Precinct.
  - WC provided an overview of the launch of the first hydrogen refuelling system launched by BOC in Queensland as an alternative for fossil fuels.

- JH explained that there was an opportunity for NCIG to be involved in Climate Action Now (CAN) Newcastle Emission Reduction committee that has been setup. The group was looking for industry representation. NJ/AJ agreed that NCIG would be interested in getting involved. **JH to send through information of the CAN committee and proposed dates to NCIG.**
- Next meeting scheduled for the 23rd November from 5pm – 7pm. **CEG members to check their diaries and inform CP if there are any clashes.**
- Meeting closed 7:35pm.