

NCIG Community Engagement Group (CEG) – Meeting Minutes
Meeting No: 12
Thursday 23 November 2023 5:00 -7:00pm
Location: NCIG Training Room

Attendees:	Community Representatives	NCIG Representatives
	Alison Rigby (AR) John Hayes (JH) Rick Banyard (RB) Alan Blanch (AB)	Nathan Juchau (NJ) – Manager Sustainability Wade Covey (WC) – Environment and Sustainability Lead Carly Parmenter (CP) – Communications and Engagement Lead Lee Haggerty (AJ) – Acting Manager Customer Assurance Peter Madden (PM) - Environment and Sustainability Officer

Apologies: Kenny Barry, Lindsay Clout, Lyn Kilby

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 all other minutes were accurate and that they be finalised. WC explained that all actions from the previous minutes had been completed. RB wished for the item of containerised shipping to be not considered as ‘complete’ as he believes NCIG and coal industry should consider this opportunity further. Minutes will be modified to ‘Noted and reviewed. For further discussion as required.’

Item 2: Business and Operations Update

- NJ provided the CEG with an update on business/operational matters since the last meeting including FY23 highlights. LH expanded on coal market trends and forecasts.
- NJ provided an overview of the current projects on site and the upcoming protestor activity with Rising Tide.
- LH provided an insight into his current role as Acting Manager Customer Assurance including receival and stockyard logistics, vessel vetting, engagement with shippers and customer service.

Item 3: Sustainability Update

- NJ provided a Sustainability Update which included:
 - On track for safety, health and wellbeing, diversity and inclusion, training and development, waste, water and biodiversity targets.
 - Discussion on the emissions reduction target which is at risk, and in particular how a proposed Power Price Agreement (PPA) will be used to inform NCIG’s future emissions position.
 - Biodiversity target currently behind but forecasted to be on track due to initiatives being considered.
 - All community targets on track.

- GRESB score of 96/100. Maintained 5-star rating and ranked first in our peer group for the second year in a row.
- FY23 Sustainability Report will be released in the coming weeks.
- Development of our next business strategy (FY25+) underway. New strategy will incorporate stakeholder consultation including CEG.
- WC provided an overview of the NCIG Net Zero Transition Plan. Opportunities for continuous improvements including energy savings through plant efficiency, renewable energy contract (PPA) and vehicle electrification.
- NJ provided an overview of key projects and initiatives including the stakeholder engagement process, diversity and inclusion roadmap and mental health training for supervisors and optimisation of recycled water.
- WC presented overview of the reportable incident which occurred on 10 November. The incident involved an overflow of dirty water from a shiploader into the harbour. It was caused by a blockage in the shiploader launder drainage system following machine housekeeping activities. WC advised that the incident was reported to the EPA.
- No external enquiries or complaints received since the last meeting.
- CP presented on recent community activities including the September Community Support Program, support of Community Partnership Program events, industry awards and attendance at the Hunter Middle School golf day fundraiser. CP advised that 20 grants were endorsed from the September CSP round to local organisations.
- CP advised that NCIG had won two external awards since the last meeting; The Newcastle Business Club's 'Organisation of the Year' Award in recognition of our commitment to ESG initiatives, and Hunter Water's 'Love Water' Award, in recognition of the material impact our Recycled Water Project will have on our annual consumption of potable water.

Item 4 - General Discussion/Meeting Close

- CEG Terms of Reference
 - CP initiated a discussion on the CEG Terms of Reference, with a focus on minimum numbers and the involvement of other individuals and groups.
 - CP asked the group if they would support adding a photo/bio to the NCIG website to help provide information to the community on our CEG. In principle support from the members received. **CP to coordinate photos/bio updates in consultation with CEG members.**
 - **CP to draft a revised version of the Terms of Reference to reflect this discussion and prepare an invitation to other community groups and stakeholders to join the CEG.**
 - The CEG advised that they are generally open to increased participation on the basis that this is a positive contribution to flexible and diverse discussion.
- Hydrogen Update
 - WC provided an 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.
- EPA's Proposed Hunter Environment Advisory Group
 - JH advised the CEG group that the EPA was in the process of establishing a Hunter Environment Advisory Group (HEAG) which replaces the previous Newcastle Community Consultative Committee on the Environment (NCCCE). JH explained his concerns around

the proposed structure, scope and membership composition of the HEAG. The concern is that the small number of proposed community (4) and industry representatives (2) is not sufficient given the diversity of issues faced and the large geographical footprint the HEAG represents. It was requested that NCIG provide support from industry on the concerns raised.

- **NJ agreed in principle to support of this position pending a review of the letter being sent to the NSW EPA CEO.**

- Next meeting scheduled for the 18th April, 2024 from 5pm – 7pm.
- Future meetings planned for 22 August and 28 November 2024
- **CEG members to check their diaries and inform CP if there are any clashes.**
- Meeting closed 7:30pm.