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DUBBO ZIRCONIA PROJECT

Community Newsletter No. 5, 22 March 2012

Since our last Community Newsletter on 23 January 2012, considerable work has taken place towards development of the Dubbo Zirconia Project (DZP). Much of this work is still being undertaken including operation of the demonstration pilot plant at ANSTO Minerals, Lucas Heights, and several studies on the ground at Toongi.

A recent capital raising by Alkane secured funds for construction of the Tomingley Gold Project and for progressing the Development Application and Environmental Impact Statement for the Dubbo Zirconia Project.

Planning Focus Meeting

A Planning Focus Meeting will be held on site at Toongi on 28th March 2012. The Planning Focus Meeting will provide an opportunity for a range of government agencies and public authorities to be briefed on the project, inspect the project site and put forward suggestions about how the Company should proceed and which issues will require assessment.

AZL will host the meeting which will be attended by representatives from the Department of Planning & Infrastructure, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Dubbo City Council, the Office of Environment and Heritage (Environment Protection Authority, National Parks & Wildlife Service), the Division of Resources & Energy, the Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries, Agriculture, Catchments & Lands), NSW Roads and Maritime Services, Essential Energy, Country Rail Infrastructure Authority and the NSW Office of Water.



Reverse circulation drilling on the Railway trachyte deposit at Toongi in March 2012

Environmental Impact Statement

Several environmental studies have been commenced to provide the necessary background data against which impact assessment will be made. To ensure that the collection and assessment of data are as accurate

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as possible, specialists in various fields of environmental assessment have been commissioned to complete individual reports. These specialist reports will be reviewed, and the critical information summarised and compiled within the EIS to be prepared by R.W. Corkery & Co (an environmental consultancy with over 25 years of experience in the preparation of such documents in the region).

Studies proposed cover an area of approximately 2,900 hectares and include flora and fauna, aquatic ecology, Aboriginal and European heritage, natural radioactivity, groundwater, surface water, meteorology, traffic, land use capability and history, socio-economic impacts, soils, noise and air quality.

Socio-economic Study

Diana Gibbs & Partners has been commissioned to complete a Socio-economic Impact Assessment of the DZP. The study will describe the existing socio-economic setting of the project, consideration of the potential impacts on the local setting attributable to the DZP and an outline of the strategy to minimise any potentially negative impacts.

The approach to the socio-economic assessment will involve an analysis of available socio-economic data with the results of qualitative research undertaken with local people to capture the full range of potential issues and opportunities within the community.

Diana will make personal contact with farmers and residents in proximity to the project and along the railway corridor to seek community opinion. In addition, Diana has proposed that some community meetings be arranged.

If you would like to make contact with Diana and have your say on socio-economic aspects relevant to the project please phone 0418 618 914

Soil Resource and Land Capability Assessment

Sustainable Soils Management Pty Limited (SSM) (David Duncan and Pat Hulme) has been commissioned to complete a Soils, Land Capability and Agricultural Impact Assessment of the DZP. The assessment of SSM will build upon data collected by Mr Geoff Cunningham (of Geoff Cunningham Natural Resource Consultants) in 2001 / 2002.

Electromagnetic survey of soil profile by Terrabyte at Toongi in March 2012



Dr Pat Hulme inspecting a soil profile on "Wychitella" March 2012



The soil study will identify the range of soil types across the 2900 hectare DZP study area. An understanding of soil types and soil properties is essential in designing rehabilitation strategies, minimising soil erosion potential and leakage of surface water to the underlying water table. Investigations will involve soil pitting (mini excavator) and auger sampling with a utility mounted auger rig.

Surface Water Assessment

Strategic Environmental and Engineering Consultants (SEEC) has been commissioned to complete a Surface Water Impact Assessment of the DZP. The EIS will contain a compilation of surface water monitoring data collected in the local area since 2001, consideration of the potential impacts of the project on the local setting and an outline of strategies to minimise impacts.



Mark Passfield from SEEC sampling Wambangalang Creek.

If you know people who you think would be interested in receiving this newsletter, please ask them to contact Mike Sutherland and they will be added to the data base for consultation.

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