

Dubbo Project Community Consultative Committee Meeting

Minutes

Title:	Community Consultative Committee	Meeting Date:	16 August 2022
		Time:	5.45 pm
Chairperson:	Michael Silver OAM		
Meeting Attendees:	Janice Hosking, Community Member Megan Brennan, Community Member Manny Portelli, Community Member Royce Munro, Community Member Rowena Smith, CEO ASM Michael Sutherland, General Manager NSW ASM		
Apologies:	Cr Shibli Chowdhury, Dubbo Regional Council Paul Carr Ashleigh Knight		
Observers	Fergus Job, Farm Manager, Toongi Pastoral Company Esther Williamson, Property Manager, ASM		
Venue:	ASM Site Office, Toongi Road, Toongi NSW 2830		

Agenda Item 1 Welcome

The meeting was declared open at 5.45pm.

Agenda Item 2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting is being held, and their Elders past, present and emerging.

Agenda Item 3 Apologies

The Chair noted the apologies Cr Chowdhury. He also noted that Mr Paul Carr and Ashleigh Knight had tendered apologies.

The Chair advised that Mrs Michelle Morris and Mr William Neville had been invited as observers, however, were unable to attend due to illness and business commitments.

Agenda Item 4 Declaration of Pecuniary or other interests

Michael Silver declared that his expenses as Independent Chair are borne by the Proponent. Megan Brennan advised that her husband was undertaking minor contract work for a subsidiary of ASM.

Manny Portelli advised that he was a shareholder of ASM

The Chair also noted that all other declarations from members were as lodged with him.

Agenda Item 5 Welcome to the new CEO of Australian Strategic Materials

The Chair welcomed the new CEO of ASM, Ms Rowena Smith to the meeting and advised that Ms Smith would address the Committee as part of the Proponent's Report.

Agenda Item 6 Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2022 were approved on 23 May 2022.

Agenda Item 7 Business Arising from previous minutes

The Chair highlighted the correspondence from the Hon. Mark Coulton MP regarding telecommunications in the area. Mr Silver indicated he would follow up the matter given the recent change of Federal Government.

Agenda Item 8 Correspondence

- **NSW Planning & Environment** - Advising that Ms Ashleigh Knight and Mr Paul Carr have been appointed to the Community Consultative Committee as Community Members.

Agenda Item 9 Proponent's Report

The Chair invited Ms Rowena Smith to address the meeting.

Ms Smith provided a brief overview of her professional career. She highlighted her extensive global, multi commodity experience in the mining and mineral processing industries. Ms Smith was appointed CEO of ASM in July, and prior to that had been ASM's Chief Operating Officer since joining the company in 2021.

Ms Smith indicated a strong interest in leading change in business, with a commitment to environmental issues and ensuring business benefits and contributes to the community.

She advised that the opportunity arose 18 months ago to be part of something different from the roles earlier in her career - joining ASM with a view to supplying metals to the world that will provide for a better future. She outlined her previous role as Chief Operations Officer with particular attention to the construction and commissioning of the metals plant in South Korea, as well as working with the study team in Brisbane and finalising the Optimisation Study Report.

Ms Smith noted the extensive history of the Dubbo Project and thanked the Committee members for their ongoing interest and involvement. She then detailed the most recent developments in the progression of the project.

- **Korean Metals Plant** - Completed and opened on 12 May 2022. She indicated that the South Korean government, Austrade as well as other high profile international companies were strongly represented at the official opening of the plant
- **Hyundai Corporation** - Signing of contract for engineering design study on 8 May 2022. This will be a 14 month study which will provide front-end engineering, full costings and documentation to allow the project to proceed to construction.
- **Modification of Consent** - Six public and 9 government submissions received. The Response to Submissions has been lodged by ASM and the modification is now subject of assessment by NSW Planning & Environment.

- Site Office - Noted that the project has “physically commenced” with the completion of the Site Office and associated access road and parking area. Ms Smith thanked the various local suppliers for the work undertaken.
- New CEO - Ms Smith was appointed on 18 July 2022.
- Macquarie Agricultural Pathways Project - Five Year 7 students on the farm one day per week for work experience relative to supporting STEM subjects. Mr Job added that it is hoped, in time, to expand this program to re-engage 60-70 students annually in education.

Ms Smith added that this program will provide significant benefit to the students as well as future employers and the community generally. She added that mining, when done well, through programs such as the Pathways program can change lives.

The Chair questioned the level of support for the Australian Government and the NSW Government. Ms Smith responded that consultation was occurring with the various government agencies. She noted the NSW Critical Minerals Activation Fund to financially support strategically significant projects in NSW. Ms Smith indicated consultation is occurring with Federal agencies in regard to project funding. Further, approaches have been made to the NSW Government to discuss support for the project. Ms Smith added that the South Korean government, understands its potential economic vulnerability and consequently is making significant efforts to support industries.

Manny Portelli highlighted the risk posed by inflation to the project. Ms Smith indicated her strong awareness of this issue and acknowledged that funding arrangements will need to take account of this issue. She also noted that security of labour and the cost of labour will also be significant challenges in the progression of the project, however through developing people with loyalty and investing in the team she was confident the issues can be overcome.

Michael Sutherland advised that Ms Smith has met with Mr Paul Carr and Ms Ashleigh Knight and a positive and beneficial discussion had occurred. Megan Brennan questioned what approach the approach would be to training and employment of Aboriginal people. Ms Smith responded that she was very keen to engage with the indigenous community in developing skills and creating employment.

Michael Sutherland noted recent rumours regarding the impact of the proposal to reopen the railway line to service the project. He confirmed that the number of trains operating on the line will be three per week. The Chair noted recent legislative amendments made by the NSW Government to facilitate the development of ‘Rail Trails’ on redundant railway corridors. Ms Smith noted the advice and will assess any implication of the changes on the proposed reopening of the railway line.

Agenda Item 11 Other Agenda Items

- Nil

Agenda Item 12 General Business

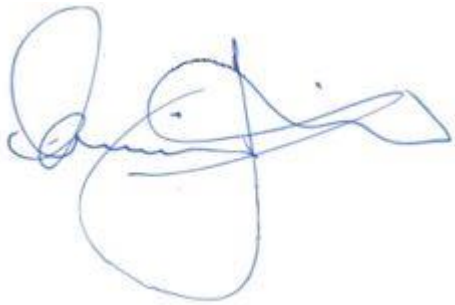
- Barry and Lesley Morgan - Michael Sutherland advised that Mr and Mrs Morgan have recently sold their home in the Toongi village and remain in the Dubbo district. He acknowledged their support for the CCC meetings over several years through provision of a meeting room and catering. The Committee wholeheartedly supported Mr Sutherlands comments.

Agenda Item 13 Next Meeting

Meetings will now be held on the 1st Tuesday of every 4th Month. Next meeting proposed for Tuesday, 1 November 2022.

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael J Silver', with a large loop at the end.

Michael J Silver OAM
Independent Chair

6 September 2022

Dubbo Project

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Action List

Action Sheet - Meeting 16/08/2022

Ref #	Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Action	Responsibility	Completion date
1	16/11/20		For discussion - Dubbo Project process modification (MOD1), due to the refined process	M Sutherland	Approval pending
2	17/05/21	4	Declarations of pecuniary interest to be re-issued due to demerger of ASM	M Silver OAM	COMPLETED 11/6/21
3	17/05/21	4	Discussion with Wiradjuri Elders group about positions on CCC	M. Sutherland	COMPLETED 18/5/21
4	06/12/21	9	Telecommunications in Toongi area - Chair to approach Member for Parkes	M Silver OAM	COMPLETED 04/04/22
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