

Dubbo Project Community Consultative Committee Meeting

Report of Meeting

Title:	Community Consultative Committee	Meeting Date:	26 October 2023
		Time:	5.40 pm
Chairperson:	Michael Silver OAM		
Meeting Attendees:	Megan Brennan, Community Member Janice Hosking, Community Member Michael Sutherland, General Manager NSW ASM Annaliese Eames, General Counsel & Company Secretary ASM [video link]		
Apologies:	Ashleigh Knight; Manny Portelli; Paul Carr; Royce Munro; Cr Shibli Chowdhury, Dubbo Regional Council; Ian Donabie, Communications Manager ASM.		
Observers	Esther Williamson, Property Manager, Alkane; Fergus Job, Senior Manager - Farming & Business Operations, Toongi Pastoral Company.		
Venue:	ASM Site Office, Toongi Road, Toongi NSW 2830		

Agenda Item 1 Welcome

The meeting was declared open at 5.40pm. The Chair extended a warm welcome to Ms Annaliese Eames from ASM's Perth office. The Chair noted that unfortunately a quorum was not present and that consequently a record of discussions would be kept and presented as a report of the meeting by him. The Chair indicated that additional reminders would be sent to Community Members prior to future meetings.

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 of Ashleigh Knight, Manny Portelli, Royce Munro, Paul Carr, Cr Shibli Chowdhury, and Ian Donabie.

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 undertakes minor contract work for a subsidiary of ASM. The Chair also noted that all other declarations from members were as lodged with him.

Agenda Item 5 Report of previous meetings

It was noted that the report of the meeting held on 13 July 2023 was endorsed on 4 August 2023.

Agenda Item 6 Business Arising from previous minutes

Nil

Agenda Item 7 Correspondence

Nil

Agenda Item 9 Proponent's Report

Annaliese Eames led the Proponent's presentation and was supported by Michael Sutherland and Fergus Job.

Corporate

Annaliese Eames advised that the 2023 Annual Report (see link) had been released since the last CCC meeting and provided a summary of the year's work. It articulates ASM's intention to deliver enduring benefits to the communities and regions where it operates and manage environmental impacts, respect human rights, and minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

<https://asmd.irmau.com/site/pdf/49a43eb5-8eec-439e-8733-495e202996fd/Annual-Report-to-shareholders.pdf>

The following appointment has been made to ASM's operational structure:

- Chris Jordaan - Chief Operations Officer: Responsible for the operation of the Dubbo and Korean facilities

During August 2023 a consultancy services agreement was entered into with Bechtel Australia Pty Ltd (Bechtel) for the provision of engineering services for non-process infrastructure (NPI) study work to support advancing the Company's Dubbo Project. The study work will advance the engineering maturity of the NPI design in key areas outside of the process plant, including:

- Residue storage and handling facilities
- Site water management
- Utility design and supply
- Site establishment planning

Ms Eames reported on progress being made with potential off-take and strategic partners who will then take an equity portion in the project. She indicated that competitive negotiations are occurring with several parties at the moment. She indicated this involves presenting the quality of product to be produced and demonstrating potential supply chain opportunities. Ms Eames advised ASM is seeking long-term off-take agreements that will provide strategic benefit. ASM's priority is to secure offtake agreements for Dubbo and anticipates that the progression into preferred supplier status and commencement of the negotiation of binding agreements will occur in the next quarter.

Ms Eames noted the recent announcement by the Prime Minister of a \$2 billion expansion in critical minerals financing, which will solidify Australia's position as a world leading provider, help the transition to net zero, boost the economy and support more jobs and opportunities for Australians. She also noted the Australian Government's commitment to work with the United States of America help to build supply chains. Ms Eames advised that the ASM CEO Ms Rowena Smith was one of the Australian and US industry leaders, attending the inaugural meeting of the Australia-United States Taskforce on Critical Minerals when the announcement was made by the Prime Minister during his recent meeting with the US President at the White House.

Ms Eames referred to the agreement with the Vietnam Rare Earth Company (VTRE) for the purchase of 100,000 tonnes of rare earth oxides from Vietnam to be used as feedstock at ASM's Korean Metals Plant. She advised that VTRE's Chairman had been arrested recently on tax related issues however the matter does not involve ASM. ASM is in discussions with a number of parties

across jurisdictions to build multiple supplies of rare earth oxides for its growing metallisation business. ASM presently has sufficient product to meet requirements until June 2024.

Ms Eames indicated that a submission is being prepared in response to the NSW Government's new Critical Minerals Strategy. The renewed strategy proposes to provide certainty and direction for the industry as it continues to grow with a sharper focus on domestic manufacturing, skills, and training opportunities.

Ms Eames reported that a visit is proposed shortly from the Korea Strategic Materials Technology organisation to the Dubbo Project site and ASM's pilot plant at ANSTO.

The Chair questioned what progress was being made on equity funding. Ms Eames responded that ASM is targeting a funding strategy for the Dubbo Project based on a mixture of debt and equity, supported by relevant export credit finance. This funding strategy will be supported by offtakes, and this will be a key step in securing funding. Unlike gold and iron ore where futures markets are available (permitting hedging), in this instance banks are looking for committed purchase agreements. Consequently, the establishment of off-take agreements in early 2024 is key to funding being secured by the end of 2024.

Obley Road

Ms Eames noted that the Funding Agreement - Stream 2 of the NSW Government's Critical Minerals and High-Tech Metals Activation Fund for \$10 million to support road upgrade works on Obley Road was recently signed. Mr Sutherland also advised that traffic data is being collected on Obley Road to support the future roadworks upgrade. **ACTION**

Property Management

Fergus Job provided an overview of the current operations of the Toongi Pastoral Company. He noted the significant dry season following the wet season last year. He indicated the current focus was managing the impact of current climate, particularly the environmental assets, this has involved destocking, managing ground cover grasses, and utilising failed winter crops for feed. Mr Job advised that during autumn 2024 there will be a focus on biodiversity works.

Mr Job outlined land management being undertaken at the Tomingley Gold Mine - interfacing with the mining operations and managing agricultural activities.

Mr Job advised that the soil carbon project is still not registered. He noted the soil carbon level is in a poor state due to modern agriculture degrading the land. He indicated there needs to be better management techniques applied to lift carbon profiles.

Mr Job also highlighted a contract with NSW Department of Primary Industry to undertake a biomass trial on a couple of locations on the Toongi property to assess the potential for biomass energy generation or soil carbon improvement. Mr Sutherland added that within the Farm Plan for the Tomingley property there is a plan to replant Fuzzy Box (*Eucalyptus conica*). This will involve establishing a design and fencing planted trees, with the intent of raising the biodiversity level. He added that there are challenges to be overcome in obtaining site asset improvement through business investment. Mr Job noted that the interface work at Tomingley has indicated that mining and agriculture can work together to provide a balanced outcome.

Finally, both Ms Eames and Mr Sutherland encouraged CCC members to read the Annual Report.

Agenda Item 10 Other Agenda Items

- **Railway Upgrade** - Manny Portelli, in an email to the Chair, raised concerns regarding the reactivation and the upgrade of railway passing through private property and how resultant impacts and potential issues (including any additional land that may be required) will be addressed.

Mr Sutherland advised that the rail corridor still exists and is controlled by Transport for NSW (TfNSW). It is proposed to reactivate and refurbish the rail line to run trains to service the project. Apart from a very small portion of land, there is no requirement for further land to support the reactivation of the line. Mr Sutherland noted that the rail corridor currently is not fenced with this is a matter to be examined with TfNSW and adjacent property owners. He indicated that existing crossings will be retained and upgraded to meet the required Transport for NSW standard.

Mr Sutherland added that it is intended that trains (proposed three per week) would run at night to minimise impact on urban rail crossings in Dubbo. Meetings are proposed with TfNSW shortly to work through any issues that need to be addressed to reactivating the rail line.

Agenda Item 11 General Business

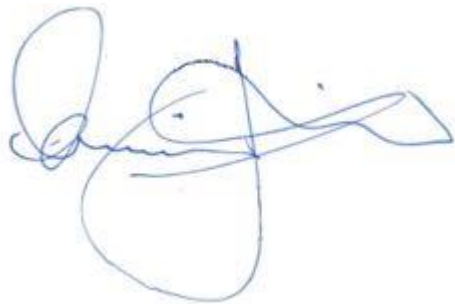
- Nil

Agenda Item 12 Next Meeting

Next meeting is proposed for February 2024 at a date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 6.25 pm.

Report Endorsed:



Michael J Silver OAM
Independent Chair

21 November 2021

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, due to the refined process	M Sutherland	DEFERRED
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
5	26/10/2023	9	That a detailed report on the proposed Obley Road upgrade be presented to the next meeting.	M. Sutherland	28/02/2024
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