Minutes of Twenty-second Meeting

The DRCCC held its 22nd meeting on 13 December 2016 at the Dargues Gold Mine Site at Majors Creek Road.

Meeting

Attendance: Brian Elton Chairperson, David Lever, Belinda Thompson, Bill Waterhouse, Peter Cormick, Brett Corven (ESC), Sue Rob (QPRC), Tom Wells (alternate member), James Dornan (Diversified Minerals), Len Sharp (Diversified Minerals), Mick South (PYBAR), Paul Rouse (Diversified Minerals – observer), Karis Sanderson (observer), Hannah Bubb (Elton Consulting – minutes)

Apologies

Apologies were received from Matt Darwon and Pete Harrison (QPRC).

Pecuniary and other interests

In keeping with the guidelines for establishing and operating CCCs for mining projects (Dept. of Planning and Infrastructure 2007) all members are asked to declare any pecuniary or other interests. No changes were reported by members present.

Minutes

Members raised clarifications with the minutes of the September CCC meeting which were incorporated. The minutes of the September 2016 meeting were then adopted.

Members supported the level of detail provided in the minutes, particularly for contentious items. Peter Cormick noted that the draft minutes should be provided as soon after the meeting date as possible.

The minutes of the CCC meetings are available to the public at the Braidwood office of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and via the Company’s website (www.divminerals.com.au).

Correspondence

No correspondence since the last meeting.

CCC Guidelines

The Chair raised the Department of Planning and Environment had released final CCC guidelines in November. The Guidelines provide templates including code of conduct agreements and member nomination forms. The Chair proposed that current CCC members complete the new Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests and Code of Conduct Agreement forms.
Regarding CCC membership, the Chair stated the process for advertising new members, providing that the CCC will call for applications for new members and alternate members in the following month. Existing members will not need to apply.

**Matters which community representatives wish to raise with Diversified Minerals**

Tom Wells raised standard practice in Victoria includes an emergency dam in the construction of the TSF, and queried why it hasn’t been included at Dargues.

James Dornan took the question on notice, noting the issue was raised during the Modification 3 process, and was responded to in the *Response to Submissions for the Dargues Gold Mine – Modification 3*.

Tom Wells raised losses to the water table and base flow at Majors Creek. He questioned why this loss is compensated at Majors Creek but not the overall loss to the water table.

James Dornan responded that the base flow of Spring Creek will be impacted as a result of the underground operation of the mine extracting water from the spring that feeds Spring Creek. The mine will compensate Spring Creek’s groundwater contribution to Majors Creek as per the *Water Management Plan*.

Water from the underground aquifer, will be extracted from the mine as it enters and will naturally recover following the cessation of mining activities.

Tom Wells asked, as the area is a drinking water source how the offset water quality will be ensured?

James Dornan noted that the company will undertake treatment before water is discharged and the water quality will be consistent with the ambient water quality of Majors Creek in line with the EPA’s requirements and included in the environment protection license.

Tom Wells asked, does water treatment involve chemical treatment?

James Dornan noted this will likely be required and may involve the use of coagulants, osmosis or a range of other treatment methods.

Tom Wells asked, how are harvestable rights dams maintained during times of drought?

James Dornan noted the study undertaken for the compensatory flow program assessed supply during drought days. A hierarchy of water controls was created, with compensatory flow higher than the processing circuit. This is in the approvals.

Tom Wells noted the preliminary assessment provides that the water table will recover 10 years after mine closure and queried how will the reduced flow be compensated for during this period?

James Dornan noted that water will be gradually returned to the water table over that period as a result of natural inflow. The compensatory flow program would continue until such time as the base flow of Spring Creek had recovered.

James Dornan noted Commonwealth (EPBC) approval is still with the regulator, in response to a question from Peter Cormick.
It was also noted that Diversified Minerals is still working through the options for processing, and does not have an indication for timing at this stage. Paul Rouse added there are a number of options being considered, which won’t affect the site at Majors Creek.

It was asked, is it feasible to begin mining onsite before the location for processing is decided?

James Dornan noted that concentrate can be stored onsite, however the company will have an option before commissioning.

David Lever queried whether there is an update on the completed design for the TSF.

James Dornan responded, this is still with the regulators.

Regarding the project approval document, tabled at the previous meeting, James Dornan noted the consolidated project approval cover was changed following questions from the CCC at the 21st CCC meeting and the new document is available from the Department of Planning and Environments Major Projects website.

Bill Waterhouse asked the company about the timeline for construction of the TSF and how wildlife will be managed onsite. Bill added that there was a previous in principle agreement that wombats were going to be un-homed rather than relocated. Bill also informed the CCC of discussions and arrangements he had with previous mine owners regarding the wombats – that he was engaged to assist the company with rehoming or other options for wildlife onsite.

James Dornan noted construction of the TSF would commence around mid-2017 and that Ecologia Australia is currently the mines fauna experts and would advise on the management of wombats within the TSF footprint. James Dornan noted a number of options for managing wildlife had been considered onsite. It was added that Len Sharp is the new contact to discuss wildlife options with, Bill and Len agreed to discuss the matter outside of the CCC meetings. The CCC requested to hear back about any agreements for wildlife management.

The CCC requested that information about wildlife management be returned to the CCC.

**Matters which Diversified Minerals wishes to raise with the community representatives**

James Dornan noted the current timeframes remain to recommence mine construction in quarter 1 of 2017, and the company is working through the background requirements.

New Dargues staff Len Sharp, Diversified Minerals, and Mick South, PYBAR, were introduced.

Mick South is a mining expert and project manager at PYBAR with 20 years’ experience.

Len Sharp is an environmental scientist with 12 years’ experience in industry and consulting. Len has worked in WA, Tasmania and NSW.

Len is the primary community contact onsite. Overtime, Len will become the primary contact for the CCC.

The community contact number is 1800 732 002 and email is DGM.Community@divminerals.com.au. This is regardless of who is onsite at the time.
James Dornan requested that requests for information and detailed questions from CCC members be provided before meetings to enable a full and comprehensive response.

**Other business**

The process for refreshing the CCC membership was discussed, noting that advertising will be conducted to fill current vacancies. Council is able to nominate any representative as a member.

Tom Wells noted that time for questions throughout the meeting should be preserved. The Chair supported this adding the preference for lengthy questions to be provided before the meeting.

It was noted that the new guidelines apply to the Dargues CCC, even though the CCC is already established.

David Lever raised the existing CCC Charter is inconsistent in a number of areas with the new CCC guidelines, and will need to be revised or abandoned. The Charter includes representation from Araluen, Majors Creek and Braidwood. The Chair noted this balance will be discussed with the CCC regarding new members.

**Next Meeting**

The Chair provided the below dates as a tentative day for a future meeting.

- Tuesday, 21 March 2017
- Tuesday, 20 June 2017

The Chair will negotiate the dates and times for the balance of the year between meetings, and will endeavor to give at least 10 working days’ notice if any additional meetings are to be held.

**These minutes are endorsed by**

[Signature]

Brian Elton

Independent Chairperson

Dargues Reef Community Consultative Committee