



Note that minutes are paraphrased to an extent and may not match actual statements exactly.



Sonya Pascoe

Project	Hydro Kurri Kurri Site Redevelopment Project	From	
Subject	Community Reference Group Meeting	Tel	1800 066 243
Venue/Date/Time	Thursday 22 April 2021 MS Teams video conference 6.05pm – 7.20pm	Job No	2218982
Copies to	All committee members		
Attendees	Cr Darrin Gray – Cessnock City Council (DG) Mr Toby Thomas – Community representative, Towns with Heart (TT) Mrs Kerry Hallett – Hunter BEC (KH) Mr Allan Gray – Community representative - Retired Mineworkers (AG) Mr Michael Ulph – CRG Chair, GHD (MU) Mr Andrew Walker – Hydro Kurri Kurri Project Manager (AW) Ms Tara Dever – CEO Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council (TD) Cr Robert Aitchison – Maitland City Council (RA) Mr Rod Doherty – Kurri Kurri Business Chamber (RD) Mr Iain Rush – Cessnock City Council (attending for Martin Johnson) (IR) Ms Sonya Pascoe – Minutes, GHD		
Guests/observers	Mr Cheslyn Africa– Project Manager, Daracon (CA)		
Apologies	Mr Richard Brown – Managing Director, Hydro Kurri Kurri (RB) Mr Kerry McNaughton – Environmental Officer, Hydro Kurri Kurri (KM)		
Not present			

Table of Contents

1	Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country	3
2	Meeting agenda	3
3	Welcome and meeting opening	3
4	Last meeting minutes	3
5	ECC and Site Remediation Presentation	4
6	Approvals	21
7	Q & A	22
8	Meeting close	29

Notes	Action
-------	--------

1 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Meeting commenced at 6.05pm

Michael Ulph (Chair) (MU)

Acknowledgement of country.

Sonya Pascoe from GHD taking minutes.



2 Meeting agenda



3 Welcome and meeting opening

MU welcomed attendees, acknowledgement of country and noted apologies.

MU asked those present to declare any pecuniary interests.

GHD and Hydro staff are paid to attend the meeting.

No other interests declared.

4 Last meeting minutes

RA moved the minutes.

KH seconded the minutes.

5 ECC and Site Remediation Presentation

MU: Ok so I'd like to introduce our special guest speaker today, Cheslyn Africa, or Chez, is the Project Manager for Daracon that is working on the Hydro site right now and I guess you can explain what you're doing. I believe you've taken over as Principal Contractor working closely with Hydro and others on the site. I'll just get you to take it away. I believe you may have, or Andrew is, looking after a power point presentation for you.

CA: Thankyou Michael and good evening everyone. Thank you for inviting me along this evening. I am the Project Manager working out on the smelter site working for Daracon and am looking forward to getting the project underway. I have got a few slides prepared that hopefully Andrew will flick through.

So Daracon, who are we and what do we do?

The Daracon Group was founded in 1983 by David Mingay, with two employees way back when. We're locally owned and now we have four main offices, with our head office being in Beresfield. We've also got offices in Sydney, Mount Thorley and Gunnedah as well. Daracon comprises of multiple businesses and we currently employ over 850 employees. We do a broad range of construction activities, and we get involved with road; rail; civil; concrete structures; landscaping; quarrying and mining. I guess one of our big objectives is to try and self-reform the works as much as we can to deliver an ultimately a good result for not only our clients but also the key personnel involved in the projects, we get involved in.

In addition to our personnel, we also have a large fleet of plant and equipment. We currently have over 250 bits of company owned machinery which we deploy on sites when required.

Daracon – who we are, what do we do?

- Supporting these activities is Daracon's large fleet of plant, equipment and machinery




Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri – ReGrowth Kurri Kurri Project

Community Reference Group Meeting #44
April 2021



CREATING PROSPEROUS FUTURES





Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri
Containment Cell Construction & Site
Remediation Project

Daracon – who we are, what do we do?

- Comprised of multiple businesses with a skilled workforce of over 850 people
- Broad range of construction activities including:
 - Road,
 - Rail,
 - Concrete Structures,
 - Landscaping,
 - Quarrying,
 - Mining.




Daracon – Who we are, What do we do?

- The Daracon Group was founded in 1983,
- Locally owned and operated with offices in Beresfield (Head Office), Sydney, Mount Thorley & Gunnedah,




CA: I've just got a slide there just showing everyone the overall site layout. Not sure how familiar you guys may be with the site. In the top left-hand corner, you can see the location for the future containment cell. That's relative to where the old smelter was and all the various waste locations that we are going to have to remove material from on site.

So overall the project was going to be about 24 months in duration, and it's ultimately split into four different separable portions.

- Separable portion 1: Site establishment and bulk earthworks. It's about three to four months in duration.
- Separable portion 2: is where we install the lining system in the base of the containment cell, and that's a five-to-six-month process.
- Separable portion 3: Where we actually remove the various wastes around the site and place them within the containment cell. And that's eight to nine months in duration.
- Then our final separable portion will be where we install the cap liner and that will be approximately six months in duration. Overall, about a 24 month project, [subject to] wet weather obviously.

MU: Chez, can I just ask while you're talking about those separable portions, is there a likelihood that there will be a break between them or is it separable just in terms of contract management?

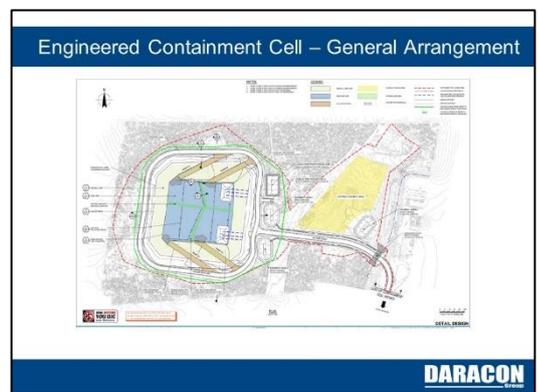
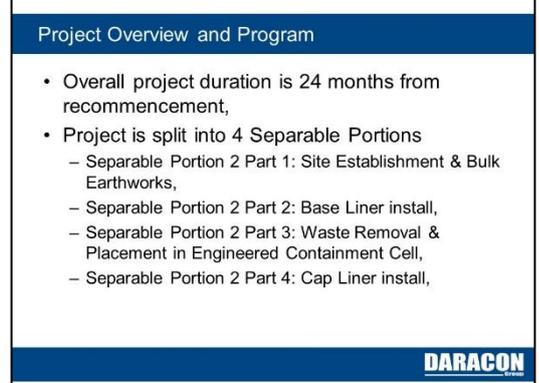
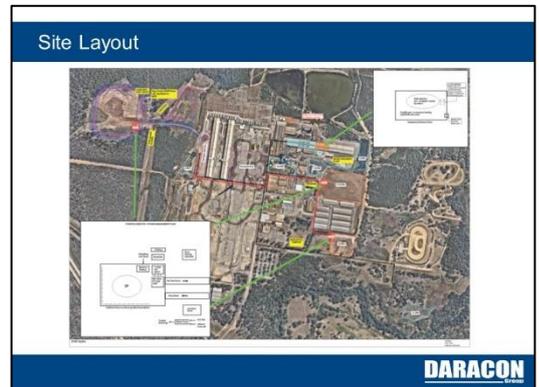
CA: Just in terms of contract management. Initially, there was a risk to the program due to the base liners, those materials are from overseas, and with the COVID scenario and delays in shipping we weren't sure how that would affect the program, but as we sit today the majority of our liners that have been procured from overseas are on site. So there is no foreseeable delay between those four separable portions.

MU: Great, thanks for that.

CA: You're right. The next slide there is just a bit of a general arrangement of the site, of where the containment cell is. Sorry, does someone want to say something?

MU: Sorry I was just going to jump in again and being very rude. I know that Tara Dever has joined the meeting so welcome to Tara. I was just going to highlight that's the containment cell site not the overall site, but you covered that.

CA: Yep, and just to give a bit of scale it's probably 250 – 300 m long and wide just to give you a bit of scale there.

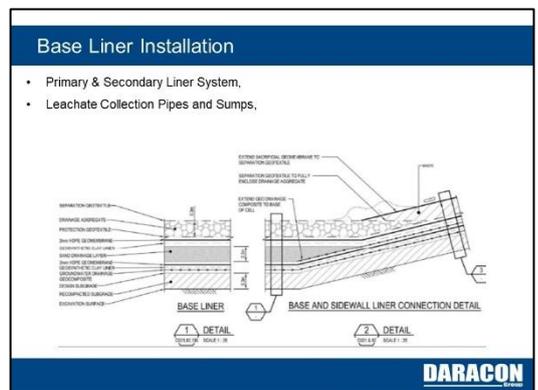
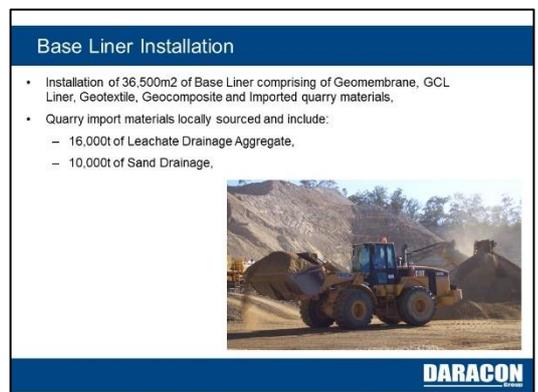
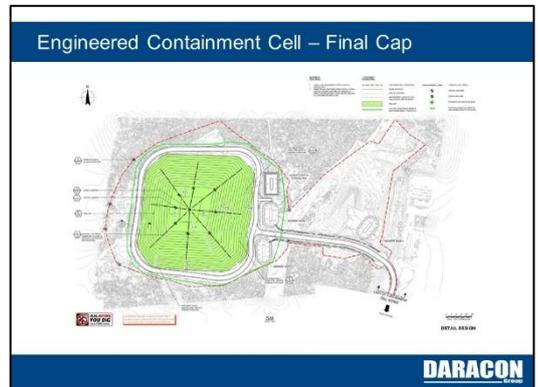


CA: The next slide across is the final cap as constructed. It's going to be about 18 m high at its highest point from the surrounding roads which go all the way around the perimeter. That's just to give everyone a bit of scale as to how big it is going to be.

CA: So just to break down into those 4 separable portions, Separable Portion 1 – our site establishment and bulk earthworks. We'll start off by the installation of the sediment and erosion controls. We have three sediment basins and two leachate holding ponds that we will construct. We have about 100,000 m³ of earthworks to complete. Our earthworks fleets will typically consist of excavators; dozers; scrapers; dump trucks; graders; water carts and rollers. We'll just scale up or scale down depending on the program requirements and constraints.

Once that's finished, we move into the base liner install. We have engaged Eco-line Solutions who are a specialist subcontractor in this field. We've worked with them on previous similar projects and those projects have turned out very successful. Overall, the base liner consists of 36,500 m² and the base liner comprises of nine layers of different liners of Geomembrane, Geocells, Geotextiles, Geocomposites and wedged within the various interfaces will be some quarry imported materials. These will all be locally sourced. There's some drainage aggregate and sand drainage there. 16,000, and 10,000 tonnes respectively.

The base liner consists of a primary and secondary liner. There will also be leachate collection pipes that will be installed which will ultimately collect all the leachate generated. That will be pumped and treated which I'll speak about that in a little while.



CA: Next slide across, just a bit of a photo there of a previous project where we worked with Eco-line on. That was the Awaba waste landfill facility. That was also a very successful job. So that's what the lining system will look like once it's installed.

Once the liner is complete, we move into our third separable portion which is the removal of the waste, and the placement of the waste in the containment cell. Overall, there is about 600,000 tonnes of waste that is located within various locations on site, and I've just listed some of those main stockpile locations there.

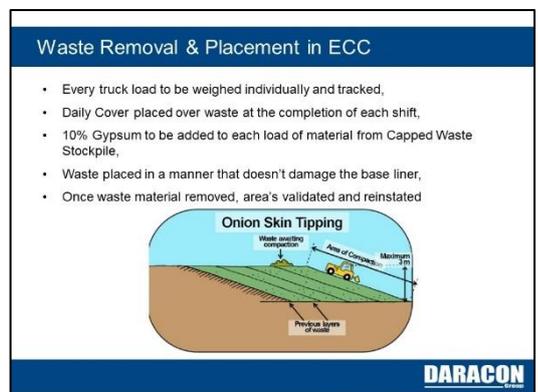
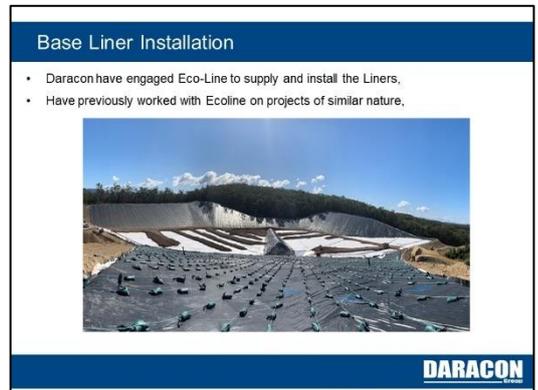
Just moving on.



CA: So, when we're removing the waste from the various locations on site, each truckload of waste will be weighed individually with an on-board weighing system in each truck, and all those load movements will be tracked and recorded. This input is extremely important in the overall validation of the project.

During the waste placement we will be using a daily cover over the waste at the end of each shift. I guess, generally speaking, it's like a PVA glue application with the idea that it will suppress any dust while we are not on site and are able to keep that dust down with water carts like we would be doing during the day.

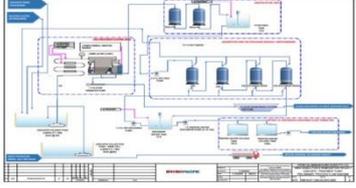
Most importantly, the waste will be placed in a manner that doesn't damage the base liner. I've got a diagram there, it's called the onion skin tipping method. It's extremely common in most landfill type applications.



The next slide across. Just a bit of a flow diagram as to how the water comes from being leachate and how it goes through the process prior to discharge on site.

Temporary Water Treatment Plant – Flow Diagram

- Leachate treatment and testing,
- Treated water to be discharged onsite



DARACON

So the leachate will be pumped from the engineered containment cell into the leachate dam near the capped waste stockpile and then treated prior to being deposited in the northern dam. Just down there I'm showing that there is capacity for the leachate to be stored on site.

Leachate Management

- Leachate transfer system containment**
 - Leachate from ECC pumped to CWS Leachate Dam for treatment and treated leachate deposited in Northern Dam.
- Containment Areas
 - ECC Leachate buffer storage Dam (1.2ML)
 - CWS Leachate Dam (1ML)
 - CWS sumps (capacity increases as waste is transported to ECC)
 - ECC Containment Cell (1.3 ML)

DARACON

CA: Once all the waste has been placed in the containment cell, we'll then be putting our cap liner on, and that's also a combination of liners also quarry materials. It's the same Geomembrane, Geocell, Geotextile and Geocomposite materials. Then we have the varying quarry materials that we'll be importing. We will be using on site clay sources as well for the sub soil material.

Cap Liner Installation

- Installation of 35,000m² of Cap Liner comprising of Geomembrane, GCL Liner, Geotextile, Geocomposite and Imported Quarry materials.



- Quarry import materials locally sourced and include:
 - 22,000t of Select Fill,
 - 20,000t of Drainage Aggregate,
- Placement of 100,000t of Subsoil material from onsite sources,
- Placement of topsoil,
- Hydromulching surface on completion.

DARACON

Just working through a couple of projects that we have had similar experiences on. Awaba landfill, apologies for not having more detail there but I wasn't involved in the job and someone let me down today. We successfully completed the Awaba landfill for Lake Macquarie Council. Daracon used Eco-Line to do the lining.

Experience on Similar Projects

Awaba Landfill

- Client: Lake Macquarie Council
- Project Value:
- Project Scope:

DARACON

We also did some work on Kooragang Island for Hunter and Central Coast Development Corporation where we have been doing some remediation some contaminated lands and also at the old BHP intertrade and intermodal sites. Daracon have over the last 10 years had a lot of experience working with contaminated materials and we are excited to work with Hydro in successfully completing this project.

Experience on Similar Projects

BHP Intertrade & Intermodel:

- Client: Hunter & Central Coast Development Corporation (HCCDC),
- Project Value: \$ 28,000,000,
- Project Scope:
 - Classification of existing contaminated fill,
 - Earthworks to place contaminated fill at correct depth,
 - Placement of compliant capping material,
 - Erosion & Sediment Control to ensure no uncontrolled releases into adjoining waterways,
 - Preparation & Submission of Remediation Validation Report

DARACON
Group

Experience on Similar Projects

Kooragang Island Waste Emplacement Facility

- Client: Hunter & Central Coast Development Corporation (HCCDC),
- Project Value: \$ 15,000,000
- Project Scope:
 - Establishment of protection measures for protected Green & Gold Bell Frogs,
 - Earthworks (approx.50,000m3) to place contaminated fill at correct depth,
 - Placement of compliant capping material (approx. 150,000m3),
 - Construction of 4 x permanent sediment basins,
 - Preparation & Submission of Remediation Validation Report

DARACON
Group



DARACON
Group

<p>Beresfield - Head Office 20 Kallera Close Beresfield NSW 2322 PO Box 481 Beresfield NSW 2322 02 4874 6000</p>	<p>Hunter Valley 2 Kline Road Mount Thornley NSW 2330 02 9274 6200</p>
<p>Sydney 154 Anderson Street West Auburn NSW 2144 02 8796 2600</p>	<p>Gunnedah 171 Elizabeth Road Gunnedah NSW 2380 02 8742 4377</p>

Thankyou everyone for your time and if you've got any questions I'd be happy to answer them.

MU: Ok, there's a bit more information about where Daracon is located. Thanks, Chez for that. Do we have questions there? You can just fire away if you like folks or you can just put your hand up.

DG: Michael, can you hear me I'm on my phone?

MU: Sure.

DG: When I was at Tomago, I had a bit of experience with adding gypsum and that to cap waste, and it was very very reactive because every few months as a boiler maker I had to change the bisalloy paddles on the agitator. It was highly reactive to metals as I remember, I'm thinking around 20 years ago. As the waste was going into the stockpile, I assume it takes into the consideration the reactivity of the gypsum and the spent pot lining and any metal that may be coming into contact?

MU: Great question.

AW: We've done testing, lab scale testing, mixing the gypsum with SPL and with the waste that we took from the cores through the capped waste stockpile. We didn't notice any gasses given off or any excess reactions. I'm not familiar with the reaction with metals but I guess what I can say is Enviropacific Solutions will be looking after the movement of the waste as a subcontractor to Daracon, that's correct isn't it Chez?

CA: Yes it is, Andrew.



AW: And there will be monitoring done of the atmosphere, so not only for airborne asbestos fibres but for other gasses. Things like ammonia; which if SPL gets wet it gives off ammonia, hydrogen; methane; what they call LEL – lower explosive limit for gasses. That will all be done with a PID- photoionization detector. The safety side of the workers involved in that process is paramount and they'll have to wear correct PPE. If the gasses are too high, the readings are too high on the meters, we'll have to stop work. No, we are not anticipating there will be any issue. We're not actually adding the gypsum where workers can be exposed. It's going to be added into the truck. There will be a driver in the cab of the truck, and if there were to be some gasses given off it would be less likely to be a problem. They'll be monitors in the cabin of the truck and the trucks will have PEPA filters fitted to them as well because it's an asbestos environment.

DG: Thanks.

MU: Fantastic. Thanks Darrin for that question, it's really great to have that experience on the ground that you've got there. Councillor Doherty, you've got a question.

RD: Thanks Michael. My question is to Chez. If and when they approve the gas plant, it looks like the gas plant's footprint is close to the work that you'll have to be doing taking the material across to the cell, and your timelines, you're saying, is about 24 months from when you start and this gas plant when its approved is meant to be up and running 2023. How do you see handling that?

CA: So, we've been provided the lot boundaries for those future works and we're adopting a minimum offset of 10 metres from those works. So, we're providing sufficient room for them to operate in. There will be a shared haul road for a portion of our scope but we're very comfortable that with the proper planning and coordination we'll be able to deliver our works and not impede any other future contractors from also working on the site.

RD: Thank you

AW: I'll just add in there, I sat in on the risk review with SnowyHydro, McCloys and Jacobs Consulting who are the consultants that are assisting as part of this project. It has been made clear that Daracon has priority on the haul road as we need to remediate the site first. So, if SnowyHydro want to bring in say the gas turbines or other equipment that will all have to be done in a planned way so it's not disrupting Daracon's work.

And when we start moving waste from the capped waste stockpile to the cell, that's very important that we don't have delays. Obviously if it takes longer and we have rain events we are going to generate more leachate and that's a big risk, so we need to



manage that risk. It's been made quite clear that Daracon have been given priority and that remediation comes first.

MU: Another great question, thank you.

Any other questions of Chez? I just had one that I thought of myself. Chez, you showed a photograph earlier of some of the liners in place at Awaba, we've had presentations previously probably two years ago now, this is our 44th meeting I should let you know, where the QA was considered in terms of having the welds in those plastic liners checked at regular intervals and that sort of thing. Are you expecting that to be the case with your project?

CA: The line of installation itself has a lot of quality assurance requirements not only pre-delivery of materials but also during the install and post install. That's why we've gone through a sub-contractor like Eco-Line who are well versed in the installation of liners within landfills and they're very used to working towards the GHD specifications. We're fully aware of the requirements and happy that we've selected Eco-Line to assist us along the journey in making sure we tick all the QA boxes.

MU: I've not heard of them before but going by the business statement it sounds like that's all they do. Any other questions of Chez before we let him go? Alright, this would be amazing that we finish your piece at 6:30 because that's what we have down in the agenda.

Thanks for that Chez, I will tell the CRG if they've got any questions that come up later, we'll field them back to you and see if we can get a response. Thanks very much for your time, really appreciate it and we expect during the course of this project, which has been going for some years and will go for some more we might have you back, or a delegate back, to give us an update of how it's all travelling. Maybe at the end of the first separable portion or second or something like that just to let us know how its going. Also, I know some of the CRG members are keen to get out and have a look at some point.

AW: Michael, I had a thought, maybe October's meeting, when we're back into daylight saving, that might be a good time for a site visit. We could start a bit earlier like 5pm and Chez could show us what's going on. We could see liners installed, sand and gravel installed etc.

MU: Excellent, well you know we all love looking at sand and gravel, that's the type of crazy wacky guys we are. Ok, we'll plan for that. Alright Chez, thanks for that, thanks very much mate. You're welcome to stay on and listen to Andrew's presentation now to see how it's really done, or you can go corral those kids, whichever works for you.



Hydro

CA: Thanks Michael, appreciate everyone's time and look forward to talking to you throughout the project. Until next time.

MU: Thank you very much. Alright, Andrew, 6:31. Are you going to give us an update on the demolition remediation.

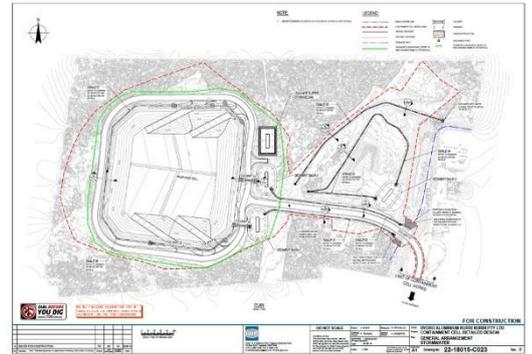
AW: Yes, so this first slide here is very similar to the slide Chez showed. It's a general arrangement drawing but it's showing the stormwater. You'll notice there are two sediment basins, one on either side of the main access road and this rectangular dam is the leachate buffer storage dam. There is a third sed basin over to the east. The reason for the one there on the east side is, this is going to become a laydown area for Daracon's construction materials and it's surrounded by a swale drain that feeds into the sed basin. Similarly, around the containment cell there is a network of perimeter drains and culverts that cross the four access ramps where the trucks drive into the four compartments of the cell. So any rain/runoff won't run into the cell, it will run around the cell and go into these two sed basins which then once full can overflow down another set of swale drains that run along the access road into a table drain at this Culvert 1 which crosses the unnamed creek. However, Daracon have told me that they're intending to pump water from sed basin 1 and sed basin 2 over to sed basin 3 and they're going to set up a stand-pipe and a pump for their water carts so they'll always have a supply of fresh water for dust suppression.

The next series of slides that I'm going to show you, you'll see that Daracon has started constructing all of those erosion and sed controls which is part of SP2 Part 1.

In this slide here you can see Sed Basin 3 in the foreground. That's the swale drain in the laydown area. So they're the two inlets into the basin and there's an overflow that goes into the creek.

AW: This slide here shows the construction of Sed Basin 2 which is on the southern side of the access road. This is looking east back towards our switchyard.

This is a dozer working constructing the leachate pond back in early March.



That was the next day. It had been roughed out and the next stage was to build up the side walls to increase the depth. That holds 1.2 ML of leachate. That leachate pond unlike the sed basins, has to be lined with a 600 mm thick clay rich fill layer, then lined with 2 mm HDPE Geomembrane. It's actually a textured liner. We won't go any further with that until we engage the independent engineer which Richard spoke about last meeting. I'll talk about that more in a few slides time.



This is the sed basin 2, again just looking from a different angle.

AW: 4th of March, and that's just an overview of the whole cell area taken on the 4th of March.

This is sed basin 1 again. This one's on the northern side of the access road.



That's the leachate pond. You can see the side walls getting built up.

This is an overview shot taken with our drone taken on the 11th of March. Things are taking shape there.



AW: This was after the first rain event. We've had a lot of rain in March as you could imagine. All up 255 mm that we measured on our weather station that's onsite. This is after 26 mm of rain. This is sed basin 3, it's started to fill.



This is the rip rap overflow from sed basin 3 and the sed fence that we've got just to protect the creek from any sediment.

That's looking at it from the top, the overflow. Looking back towards the switch yard offices.

This is another view looking back towards the cell showing the two sediment basins.

Just so you know, sed basin 1 on the north side – we changed it to a trapezoidal shape because we had the 132kv power lines and we spoke to Ausgrid and they didn't want the stays or guidelines that support those poles you can see there. They didn't want the construction or the fencing to be too close, so we had to redesign that sed basin from an oval shape to a trapezoidal shape. We also had to put earthing rods all around the fence where it's near the power lines. The other thing I'll mention on the powerlines, so as part of Daracon's induction, the safety aspects of working near those powerlines, the importance of that's been stressed for everyone involved on the project. There's about 10 m clearance underneath them, but everyone has to be very careful because they're still live, obviously.

AW: That's another general shot.



That's the sed basin 2 again.



That's sed basin 1, this was a bit later after a bit more rain.

The leachate pond, that's now finished by this stage. Well not quite finished, ready for the clay rich fill and the liner to go in once the engineer is on board.

AW: This was after we had quite a lot of rain. That's on the 26th of March, you can see sed basin 3 is full and the other basins are full. Daracon are preparing the laydown area ready for storage of the geosynthetic liners.



Daracon actually have an EPL (Environmental Protection License) with the EPA and they did end up dewatering that sed basin. They add a flocculant to it, to remove the sediment. They test it before and after they add the flocculant. They test it for turbidity and total suspended solids, and it has to be below a certain level before they can discharge the water to a receiving waterbody, like the unnamed creek. They probably won't have to do that too often though as I said the intention is to use that water for dust suppression.

This is a little bit later on. Late march, after we had all that rain.



This shot shows the scrapers removing some of the crushed concrete from one of the stockpiles and taking it over to that





Hydro

laydown area. It's quite impressive. I've not seen those machines working before, but they can move material very quickly. Much quicker than using a dump truck and a digger. And its only one operator instead of two.

This shows the laydown area nearly complete on the 29th of March prepared with crushed concrete.



AW; That's it, a couple of days later, completed.

MU: Sorry Andrew, that crushed concrete is part of some of the old buildings on site?

AW: Yeah, it's all the old pot line buildings and all the floor slabs, building columns, foundations. Yeah, CMA crushed 203,000 t of concrete and we've got about 70,000 t left as stockpiles. The rest was used to backfill pits and voids and holes from foundations etc.

MU: Thanks

AW: This shows the first containers arriving from Malaysia, that Ecoline have brought to site. This shows them unloading them. They remove the rolls using an excavator with a soft sling.

Once the roll is out and one end is down on the ground, they come in with a Manatu and put a second soft sling on, attach it to the forks and then lift the roll, take it out of the container and transport it over to a laydown area. So, that will be happening from now until the end of May I believe.

MU: So, are they 40 foot or almost 40 foot rolls?

AW: Yeah 40-foot containers, the rolls are about 10 metres long. Each one weighs about 1.3 tonnes and is about 800 m² in each roll. Ecoline looked at the production numbers, each roll has a unique number, and according to GHD's sampling plan in the tech spec, it worked out to be one in every seven rolls that had to be put aside for sampling and so they did that. That sampling won't take place until we have the engineer on board. They need to be there to witness that sampling and that's all part of that QA process. The samples then go away to the laboratory to test for all



the critical properties that are in the tech spec that have been specified by GHD. Things like tensile strength, elongation etc.

AW: Chez spoke about a temporary water treatment plant, and I just wanted to give you an update. So last meeting we spoke about the fact that we had to put a modification through. In our original EIS we had nominated both offsite and onsite treatment, but then in the RTS (Response to Submissions) we were leaning towards off-site treatment and a WTP in Sydney. Since then, we did further investigation and we think its more appropriate to treat the water on site for a number of reasons.

1. we are in control of it
2. its less traffic, and there is risks around transporting leachate on public roads
3. cost is another factor.

We may still have to send some leachate offsite if we get a big rain event. We're hoping to do most of the treatment on site. Towards the end, about 12 months after the cell is capped, when the leachate generation drops to very low levels, the water treatment plant will be packed up and sent away then we will be sending the leachate offsite in a truck for treatment.

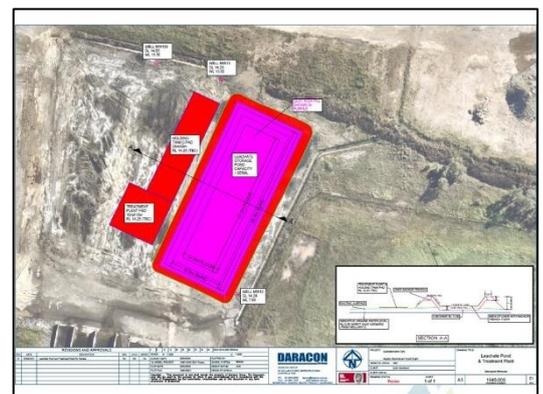
We received the SEARS in February. We've been in consultation with the EPA and other agencies. We've had assistance from both Daracon and Enviropacific Services on some technical questions that we received from the EPA and that's helped us inform the responses back to those agencies and the SEE is now being updated to address all of the SEARS and I'm hoping it is ready to be submitted tomorrow. We just need to get moving on that, because this plant will be needed around January next year so we haven't got much time to get it approved.

This just shows where it will be going. The red square is where the treatment plant will be, and the red rectangle to the north of it will be where the four 1000 L holdings tanks will go. As Chez explained it will be a batch wise process. The first tank will be sampled, the results will be sent to the laboratory, if it meets specification. The plant can keep operating filling the second, third and fourth tank while we're waiting on the results of the first tank. If the results come back all ok, the main contaminant of concern is fluoride, if it comes back below the limit of 15 mg/L it can be discharged in the open V-drain to the north which flows into our site stormwater system which then makes its way to the north dams and from there it can be used for dust suppression on site or it would go to our irrigation area. The pink rectangle is the second leachate buffer storage dam. That is adjacent to the capped waste stockpile – you can see her to the right – that is the capped waste stockpile. We wanted to have a second leachate

TWTP approval process

- Modification to the development consent for SSD 6666 was submitted in January.
- Hydro received the SEARs specifically for the TWTP, prepared in consultation with the EPA and other agencies.
- Assistance received from Daracon & EPS on the technical questions about the TWTP to inform the SEE responses to the EPA and DPIE.
- The draft Statement of Environmental Effects is currently being updated to address the SEARs and will be submitted to DPIE for approval on 23/4/21.

OUR PROSPEROUS FUTURES



storage point adjacent to the capped waste stockpile. As part of the waste removal process Daracon will create a sump in this north west corner and from there water can be pumped into the leachate dam, where it will be treated. Water from the other leachate dam will be pumped across site in a pipe into this second leachate storage dam. Where it crosses the creek at culvert 1 the pipe will be doubled skinned just in case it leaks we have a second pipe – a pipe within a pipe – for protection. We will have to keep a good close eye on that to make sure there is no leaks, for obvious reasons.

AW: The other thing we have been working on is getting the gypsum ready which is going to be needed, as I explained earlier, for treating the waste from the capped waste stockpile. So we're adding 10% by weight of gypsum and we are going to be storing that in three full SPL sheds. So that started a few weeks ago and we have the first thousand tonnes on site, and we need 20,000T by next January. We are still actually emptying the third shed. We are relying on Regain, who have had a bit of a break because of a plant upgrade project they were working on plus some increased pot failures at Tomago so they haven't been recycling and SPL in the last few months, but they are coming to site next week to start transporting SPL back to their plant at Tomago.

Daracon have also been mulching the veg that has been removed. The last meeting, I explained that we cleared about 1 ha of vegetation around the perimeter of the clay borrow pit in preparation for the cell. That 1 ha was a lot less than what we anticipated. Originally it was going to be 2.5 ha but we managed to reduce it to 1 ha. We now mulched all that vege with a tub grinder which will be used on site for various landscaping works.

The other activity that we've been working on. We discovered some historically dumped asbestos at an area that we call Lot 16 which is on the corner of Bishops Bridge Road and Grahams Lane, which is to the west of where the cell is going. We cleaned all that up. In this photo, we have Jordan from Ramboll setting up a grid and doing a walk over and identifying where all the asbestos was.



This is another photo showing that. That pile there is full of asbestos that you can see, looks like somebody had a great idea of dumping their bathroom there on the side of the road. Some other things, car parks ect.

AW: We got that cleaned up by RTC Group a couple of weeks ago and that's been put at our Dixon Road North stockpile. We will put that in the cell when the rest of the material goes into the cell.

I've just got a few general shots of the site after all the rain that we had. This one just shows the smelter site has held up well, so all the drainage that CMA had put in, all the swale drains, are working.

There's a hell of a lot of water in Wentworth Swamp, as Kerry Hallet would know as she lives not far from there. That is looking north and that's our irrigation paddock you can see there on the left-hand side.

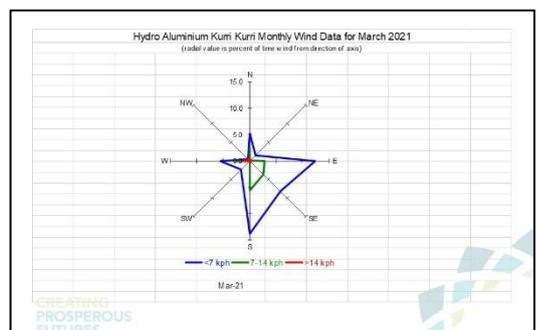
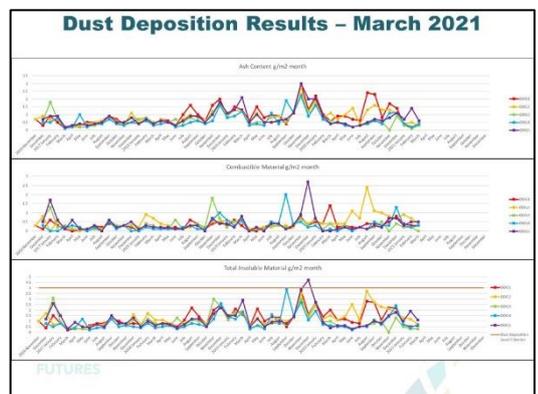


This is another view just above that north west corner of the irrigation paddock looking over Wentworth Swamp towards Farley.

AW: The dust results were very good for March, as you would expect. There hasn't been much activity on site and there has been lot of rain. We are well below the 4 g/m² per month in all 5 locations.

The wind was predominantly from the south/south east.

Which would mainly affect locations 4 and 5 which were fine. Things are looking good there, but it is always something we have to keep an eye on.



6 Approvals

AW: Just talking about the approvals. So last meeting we went into quite a lot of detail around the conditions of consent.

AW: Richard spoke about the VPA and so on. I've put his slides back in as a reminder. As you're aware the cell construction will be overseen by a number of independent auditors and engineers.

We have our EPA accredited site auditor, Ross McFarland from AECOM, who used to work for the EPA, he is our site auditor. We also have to engage an independent engineer to oversee the QA of the construction of the cell. He will write a CQA report, which stands for Construction Quality Assurance report, and that will form part of the validation report that Ramboll have to write which then goes to the site auditor Ross.

As well as that we have Ramboll doing compliance auditing and reporting. We have to do one of every 6 months as part of our conditions of consent. We have to do what's called an Independent Environmental Audit. We have another company engaged to do that and that's about 12 months after start of construction. That's mainly focussing, like the compliance report, how we're going with compliance to the conditions of consent.

The second bullet point on the VPA – Richard spoke at length last time about how the NSW Government will take ownership of the Cell five years after its completed, or five years after it's been capped which is about seven years from now. As part of the VPA we will be transferring \$6.5 million to cover the management costs of the cell in perpetuity and there will also be an insurance policy for the cell if there was something unforeseen, such as if the cap needed to be replaced that insurance policy would cover that cost. We've also provided bank guarantees totalling \$30 million, four separate guarantees for each of the phases of Separable Portion 2 and we have provided that as financial security so if anything was to happen to Hydro Aluminium Kurri Kurri the Government has the money to complete the project if required.

That's the VPA, that's been signed by us. That should come off notification early next week. It has been on notification for four weeks and then it will be signed by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.



AW: The other thing we have been working on over the last two months is this independent engineers deed. We had to go out to tender, we went out to three different engineering companies and we are now working with a preferred. That is a tri-partite agreement between DPIE, Hydro and the Engineer. We haven't yet got that signed; we are still working through. It has been a slow process and quite difficult agreeing on all the terms and conditions.

But we are hoping to have that signed in the next week or two, because Daracon have been stood down since the 27th of March, so the only work they are doing is receding the geosynthetic liners and mulching the veg. Other than that we can't do any more work until we get the engineer on board. It's holding up the whole process. Hopefully we'll have it sorted soon.

This is just a graph of the SPL, I haven't updated it since the last meeting as no SPL has left site in the last two months since the last meeting. As I said Regain are coming back to site next week. You'll start to see an increase and hopefully get that third shed empty that we need for the gypsum.

7 Q & A

That's all I had for today, are there any questions?

KH: Yeah Andrew, that water has gone down heaps now.

AW: Oh, has it?

KH: Yeah, we only have a little bit of a water view now.

AW: Yeah ok, back then it looked like an inland sea.

KH: Not the worst I've seen but pretty wet.

AW: I was looking on NEARMaps this time as April/May 2015

KH: I think 2007 was actually higher.

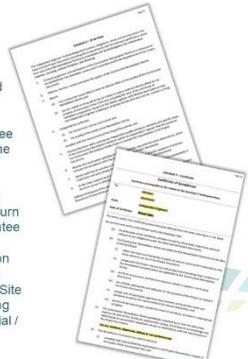
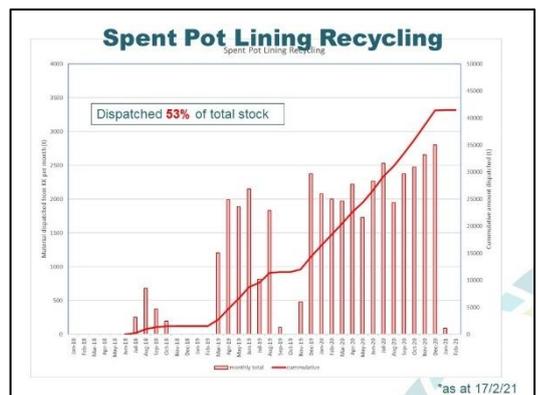
AW: Was it? Yeah the Pasha Bulker storm

KH: The boys were driving the boat around the paddocks.

MU: Crazy. Tara I know you're here today and thanks for joining us. Is there anything that jumps out? I know it's been a while since you last attended. Is there anything you'd like to ask about the project more generally?

Independent (CQA) Engineer

- Hydro and DoPIE will engage a suitably qualified and experienced Engineer (IE) to oversee the cell construction
- Engagement will be tri-partite (three way) between DPIE, Hydro and the IE
- The IE will certify the satisfactory completion of construction stages and in so doing will enable the return of the corresponding bank guarantee for that stage of the works.
- Certification of the cell construction will be part of the validation of the site remediation and overarching Site Audit Report/Statement concluding that the site is suitable for Industrial / Commercial use.



TD: Not really. I've had a read of the previous minutes, I've been keeping up to date that way. I've just been watching it. A couple of meetings back I might have had something to say.

MU: Thanks very much for coming along anyway. Any other questions of Andrew while we've got him? Alright we'll take that, ah no, Robert.

RA: Andrew, the problem seems to be around getting the private engineer on board. What's the hold up there?

AW: So it's just very slow. We've got the preferred company already to go, they've been really good and very responsive. It's just really slow dealing with the Department of Planning and their lawyers. Their lawyers seem to take forever to turn things around. Richard has been ringing Chris Richie at DPIE on a daily basis just trying to get an update. We send documents to them and it seems to take so long to get anything back from the lawyers. Our lawyer is dealing direct with their lawyer to speed up the process but it is still taking a long time.

RA: Is it something Maitland or Cessnock council could help with the pressure, or is it just slow?

AW: It's just slow, but we are nearly there. We are happy to have any help we can get; we just want to get on with it. Plus, as Rod Doherty pointed out, we have the pressure now of potentially having SnowyHydro approving their project and wanting to start construction potentially towards the end of this year/early next year. Before that happens, the switchyard needs to be demolished and that site remediated. That won't take long. They'll want to get going because Liddell Power Station is shutting in 2023 and they'll want to get this gas power plant up and running before then. It just seems unnecessary why these things take so long.

MU: That leads us to another question Andrew. You talked about the demolition of the switchyard, is Daracon looking after that or is that another organisation.

AW: So McCloy-Stevens group are responsible for that. We'll be transferring all of the land on the western side of the site – basically the footprint of the three pot lines and the switch yard – will be transferred to McCloy's later this year. I believe McCloy's will then sell the land to SnowyHydro, but before the land is sold to SnowyHydro, McCloy's need to demolish and remediate the switch yard. They are currently out to tender with different companies, the main players in demolition.

MU: The other key thing with that is the opportunity for the private sector to come up with the 'balance of power'. I think Rod might have mentioned it last time when we had SnowyHydro speak about their project that there was a deadline – maybe the end of



this month as to where a decision is made as to whether they would proceed.

AW: 1st of May I believe.

MU: Yes that's right, we worked that date out eventually. That's a key date as well I suppose, that's coming up very soon, a week and a bit. Alright, any other questions to add?

TD: I haven't got a question, but it's probably more of a statement. I know Andrew, it probably must feel awful waiting around for the approval. But it is the Department of Planning, and they do take this time. This is what happens all the time with State Significant Projects, and I really doubt that power station if it goes through, will be able to do anything without any gas. So, at the moment, they haven't picked a route, they haven't done a 12 month assessment, they haven't done all the things they need to do to put their assessment together. I think it will all fall into place.

AW: That's good to hear.

TD: Slow and steady, it's the government.

MU: Very good, thanks for that. Alright, the next part of the meeting is to go around the room if you've got any comments or questions, including stuff that has come up down the road at the coffee shop where people have said "you're on that committee aren't you, what's going on with X or Y?". Rod you've raised your hand?

RD: Yes thanks Michael, I've attended two of these power station meetings and the meeting before last. I was actually quite disappointed at the very first meeting the community must have been asking questions about the actual physical whole development of the whole project. I believe, and there are others in the room tonight that were sitting in on those meetings, that they were bumbling through those meetings and that was quite disappointing. They were trying to tell people in the room things they didn't know about. I said to them at the time, "the person that should have been in this room talking to you should've been someone from Hydro".

MU: Thanks for that Rod. Have we got any other comments around those meetings? Kerry?

KH: Yeas. The first meeting was fairly fiery, and there was words like 'bribe' and all sorts of things used, which Rod wasn't at. The big concern is how it's going to affect them, and Tara was at that meeting as well. The big concern has been how it's going to affect them and not understanding where the power plant was actually going in regard to the whole Hydro site. I did think at one point I was going to have to revive Billy Metcalf which wasn't a good thought. The reason they actually started speaking about what



was going on there was to explain that this is a very small portion of what is being developed and it is right of way. Their view was that between where they lived and the power plant were all these residential homes going in, that's why it was brought up.

It would've been nice to actually have somebody else there. I think Tara may have actually asked to get McCloy-Stevens along to talk about it but I don't know if they chased it up and were told they couldn't do it. That was the main gist of it, the amount of noise and dust that may come out of it. Is that about it, Tara?

TD: Yeah, I think there is just this breakdown where the community don't feel like they know, and I know that's not Hydro's fault, but I think Stevens and McCloy need to, and council have - particularly Cessnock Council people were sitting there - were residents of Cessnock, that largely do not understand at all where the footprint is, where the residential will be, where the other things will be. People want to know what is going to happen to them. It is not about anyone else, it's about them and what will happen to their families and their house. I was at the first two meetings, I missed the last.

KH: The last was a lot calmer.

TD: The second meeting was still that, you know, "what's going to happen". And of course, SnowyHydro haven't done any of that lead up, they don't have the data, they haven't done the work yet because they don't know where the gas is coming from. They can't do a lot of that work. I think that was very obvious, that those stakeholders that are going to be living adjacent, are really concerned. As a landholder, we're concerned about the impacts in the future in that space. We're probably a closer landholder than most of those people. As the crow flies, Kerry and I both live fairly close to the space. There are a lot of people who are anxious about this space. Some advertising, some material dropped, a knock on the door from some community manager somewhere would probably ease. They'd get angry then would probably settle.

KH: The main thing is with the noise because they do get so much noise from the expressway, they're really worrying how noise on top of that from the power plant is going to affect them. Some of them are finding it quite uncomfortable at the moment with the express way.

DG: I think that was well explained wasn't it Kerry? Correct me if I'm wrong but the amount of time it is going to run and the noise it's going to make is really – they're not going to hear it at all.

KH: If they do its only going to be very minimal and in the background. Again, it comes down to what Tara said, they don't know and don't understand even thinking that the noise would go



on top of the expressway noise rather than be running together. Its fear though.

DG: I think also it's the context as both you and Tara have both indicated, is that people don't understand how the context of the power station fits with the rest of the McCloy development with the residential and heavy industry. Is it an add on, is there going to be buffer zones, what is going to be the footprint, how's this going to affect all the other heavy industry that is going to be built in that area as well.

KH: They haven't actually thought about that yet. This is in their face at the moment so I don't think they've thought about that side at the moment.

DG: That's right. That's what I was hearing from the community. I had to leave the last meeting early, and that's where the angst was coming from. I don't know where the rest of that discussion went. It seemed to be that the context of the development, the overall development to the whole site.

RD: Honestly, we're talking about bits and pieces. What I was talking about at the beginning was the way, at the second meeting the person tried to address, tried to tell a story, about the Hydro development, not about the gas plant. When the facilitator said "they asked those questions of us at the first meeting" – well what I'm saying from a community relations point of view, and from giving the information out, they should not have been trying to tell those people in the room about the overall development of the site, the 5,000 acres. We're not talking about the 100 acres where the power station will be, they were wanting to know about the whole project you know. As I said at the beginning, my discussion that they were trying to bumble through it and that's why I stepped in and said "someone from Hydro should be here talking about this, not you people" and that's the guts of what I just said. It had nothing to do with noise attenuation and how many hours a week it was going to operate, they were worried about the whole project, the Hydro project, not just the power station.

KH: Rod they were only worried about what would be cleared so thinking that the residential area was going in between them, so they'd be a lot of clearing.

DG: That's right

TD: Or that the actual power station will actually be "Bayswater" sitting there.

DG: That's right

TD: Because it's just about them, and they're not in that space and they're not really hearing because they're concerned. They weren't concerned about the smelter at all, some of them



purchased properties while the smelter was running, before the smelter.

RD: Absolutely, absolutely.

MU: Well it sounds like that sounds like an interesting meeting. I'm starting to think they've stolen most of our CRG members Andrew. I hope they don't offer better lollies than we had back when we were meeting face to face

KH: We get sandwiches, coffee

MU: Upping the ante. That's why you mentioned bribery early on, ok.

KH: She was throwing that around pretty well.

MU: I guess a couple of things out of that. If its feasible, you could offer that Hydro could come and present to that CCC or CRG or whatever you call it to give that broader context. We could, Hydro could, on your behalf reach out to McCloy-Stevens to do the same and make them an offer.

DG: Wasn't that the last meeting Kerry?

RD: Yeah that was the last meeting .

MU: Ah ok.

KH: They're actually talking about bringing us back for another meeting though.

MU: Clearly you guys make up 80% of the meeting committee members anyway.

KH: No, we don't actually

RD: There's only four or five of us there

MU: Right ok.

KH: After the first meeting they were going to go back and talk to Hydro, but I don't know if they didn't get hold of someone or what happened.

MU: Alright. I guess in a week or so we will know if it's still going ahead and then there might be a communication piece in there to get our act together and do a broader piece around the whole thing to talk about "who's who in the zoo", what this landscape is looking like in terms of future development and then who the players are and so forth. As a practitioner of engagement I feel I'm obliged to get involved in that and try and do a better job.



KH: I think that would be a good idea because that would let them know how everything is fitting together rather than getting all those bits and pieces.

DG: I think that SnowyHydro even admitted at some of those meetings that they're building a power station and this has been dropped in their lap, everything has been going so quickly. Even the community consult committee was bringing together residents so they could do a pre-emptive, on the types of issues that they were going to face. I'd be expecting that the full context and all the rest of it that as soon as the Prime Minister or whoever it is says it's a goer, that's when the real community consultation and community engagement will occur. That was my reading of it anyway.

MU: Absolutely, when you're talking about a full blown EIS for a project such as this, and the pipeline EIS, that consultation is mandatory.

DG: They've split the project. They made it very clear that one project is them building the power station and the other project is building the pipeline, and that's been done by a separate entity. So, it's not like SnowyHydro are seeing it as one project, they're building a power station.

MU: But the community sees it as a whole bunch of different impacts if you like.

TD: However, having said that Darrin, they still hire and fire consultants that are working on that pipeline. So, they aren't too far away from each other.

DG: Thankyou Tara.

MU: Any further comments or questions from the CRG members around the project generally, any feedback?

TT: I'd like to hear a bit of a report back from McCloy and Stevens on where they are up to. That's the important thing about this whole thing, what they're going to bring in the way of industries and employment opportunities.

MU: Ok, thank you.

AW: I can feed that back to Richard and maybe we can get Shane Boslem along to the next meeting or the one after to give an update. It sounds like he probably should've been at that SnowyHydro meeting.

KH: It would've been nice. There has been more movement happening from McCloy-Stevens over here as well so they're getting closer to the planning stage.



MU: Ok then, that just probably leaves us to wrap it up. We're looking at June 17th for the next meeting, so two months, hence, the third Thursday of the month. Anyone have any issues with that that they can see at this point in time?

Alright, I think we've given Robert plenty of time for that risotto, I know those rice meals take a while to absorb all the moisture, smells great from here mate. Hope it tastes as good as it looks, we could see you slaving away. Thanks everyone, that's meeting number 44. We are getting close to the big 50 where we are going to Centrepoint Tower for dinner afterwards to celebrate.

AW: Are GHD paying are they Michael?

MU: Absolutely mate, the amount of money you've paid me so far I can afford it. Oh, look at that, there you go, that's the risotto. With that, it's just gone quarter past 7, thanks for your attendance and we'll catch you next time.

8 Meeting close

Meeting closed: 7:15pm

Date of following meeting: 17th June, 2021