

Project	Hydro Kurri Kurri Site Redevelopment Project	From	Sonya Pascoe
Subject	Community Reference Group Meeting	Tel	1800 066 243
Venue/Date/Time	Thursday 17 December 2020 MS Teams video conference 6.05pm – 7.20pm	Job No	2218982
Copies to	All committee members		
Attendees	Mr Kerry McNaughton – Environmental Officer, Hydro Kurri Kurri (KM) Mr Shannon Sullivan – ESS Australia (SS) 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) Mr Iain Rush – Cessnock City Council (attending for Martin Johnson) (IR) Mr Rod Doherty – Community representative (RD) Mr Brad Wood – Community representative (BW) Cr Robert Aitchison – Maitland City Council (RA) Ms Sonya Pascoe – Minutes, GHD (SP)		
Guests/observers	Shifaa T – UON HEI Intern Christie M – UON HEI Intern		
Apologies	Mr Andrew Neil – Manager Strategic Planning, Maitland City Council (AN) Mr Richard Brown – Managing Director, Hydro Kurri Kurri (RB)		
Not present	Ms Debra Ford - Community representative (DF) Ms Tara Dever – CEO Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council (TD) Mr Bill Metcalfe – Community representative (BM)		

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## Notes

## Action

### 1 Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Meeting commenced at 6.02pm

**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.**

No pecuniary interests declared by the CRG.

### 4 Last meeting minutes

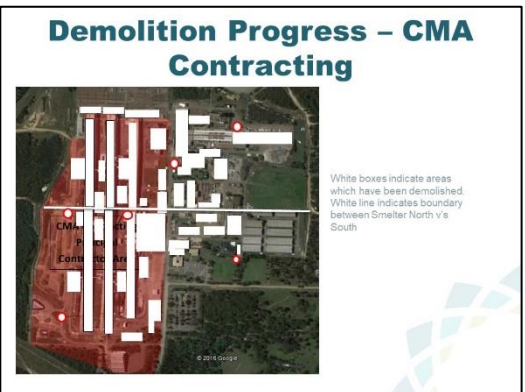
KH moved the minutes.

DG seconded the minutes.

## 5 Demolition / remediation update

**NOTE: These initial slides are light on for detail as the recording and minute keeping was not to our usual standard.**

AW: Firstly, some shots of the site to show what is left.



You can see how the site looked in Feb 2017 and how it looks today.



CMA are now demobilising people and equipment from site.

They have now finished all work removing busbar in the Switchyard. You will see that some foundations remain in parts of the Switchyard. This is due to either 'live' 11kV cables running underground or to avoid disturbing the earth grid.



The 7A baking furnace building and 68C anode storage building remain and will be demolished in approximately two years' time when all of the waste contained within them has been transferred to the Containment Cell.



In the foreground you can see the 60C contaminated soil stockpile. This has been building up over the last 12 months as CMA has been cleaning up the contaminated soil in the Carbon Plant during Stage 2 Demolition Works. It is being stored on a patch of ground that still needs to be remediated. This will be done by Daracon as part of the Site Remediation Contract.



Tolls have been back on site loading the busbar from the Switchyard. It is being loaded into containers in Tolls' yard prior to shipment to Hydro's European Remelt Plants.



Last CRG meeting Richard showed you this area being hydro-mulched. It is now greening up nicely due to the recent rains and with the assistance of some portable sprinklers. Our plan is to continue seeding or hydro-mulching other areas on site to reduce dust emissions when the dry windy weather returns.



The Hydro Team has been removing the air compressors, air dryers and pipework from 32A compressor house as a fill in task until the remediation project resumes.





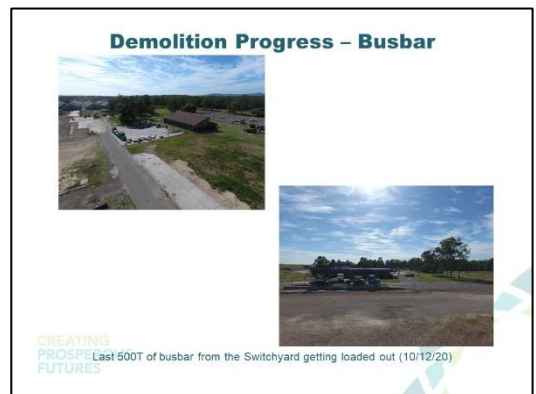
This photo shows the Capped Waste Stockpile in the background and the location of what will become the haul road to transport the waste across site. A leachate pond will be constructed adjacent to the Capped Waste Stockpile.



CMA workers lancing the Switchyard busbar into 5.7m lengths.



Switchyard busbar leaving site on a Tolls truck.



Digging up redundant electrical cables along the side of Wonarua Rd.



CMA digging up redundant services - asbestos conduits, a fuel oil pipe and a 6" air main. The asphalt had to be saw cut prior to removing the redundant services.



Asbestos conduits are being removed by SLH, which is CMA's sub-contractor. It has all been double wrapped in black plastic which is the usual practise, and that's being stored in the 7a furnace as you can see here. That 7a building is now quite full but it's worked out well it's been a good area to store asbestos waste and process waste that's going to go to the cell.

## Demolition Progress



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Removal and wrapping of asbestos conduits from Wonarua Rd (10/11/20)

## Demolition Progress



CREATING PROSPEROUS FUTURES  
Digging up asbestos conduits, fuel oil pipe and 6" air main on Wonarua Rd (10/11/20)

## Demolition Progress



CREATING PROSPEROUS FUTURES  
Storage of asbestos conduits in 7A furnace (11/11/20)

Then this photo shows the excavation being dewatered the next day and the water was transferred into IBC's in case there was any risk of hydrocarbons from the fuel oil or any asbestos.

## Demolition Progress



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Dewatering the excavation the next day (11/11/20) to allow the remaining services to be removed.

CMA have also been making safe the bake furnace building so in this photo - the outlet duct work from anode bake furnace two, we just wanted to make sure that was safe. We are always worried about if kids get on site over the Christmas holidays, we just don't want anyone getting hurt so we've just fenced it all off.

There is a basement area that we blocked off there with that plywood and we fenced all the openings to the building. In this photo, this is the area around that contaminated soil stockpile that I mentioned earlier and CMA have been just chook-picking - removing bits of foreign material like 'reo' and plastic that got

## Demolition Progress




CREATING PROSPEROUS FUTURES  
Making safe the ABF2 outlet duct & 7A furnace building until demolition can take place in approximately two years (9/12/20)



through the crusher into the crushed concrete and they've been grading it with a small posi-track.

### Demolition Contract Closeout



Items to be finalised – 1) Finalisation of all defects, 2) Finalisation of QA Documentation, 3) Agreement on Demolition of Remaining Buildings in ~2 years.

This slide, I don't expect you to be able to read it but there was over 100 defects. Just minor things and CMA now down to like four open items. Everything else has been closed out and it's mainly related to paperwork, the things I mentioned before, all the quality assurance documentation. We are just waiting on that to be finalised.

We are setting up an agreement with CMA under the existing contract for them to come back in two years' time and re-mobilise and demolish those two remaining buildings. The 7A furnace and the 68C anode storage building. That can't happen obviously until the waste is transferred to the cell but when the buildings are empty we want CMA to come back within say three months because that will generate more demolition waste and we want that waste to go into the cell so you have to be careful on the timing there.

CMA probably will be staying on site with a small crew like Michael Lawrence, the project manager and a few of his people will continue to use the building that we call 50A which is their compound area and that way they'll be available and ready to restart in about two years' time which will be towards the end of Daracon's programme.

We've just been trying to keep busy while we're waiting on the approval, so one of the things we had to do was with the SPL sheds which we're currently emptying as we are recycling spent pot lining. One of the sheds had a damaged floor and the intention



is to hand these sheds over to McCloy-Stevens group. They intend to repurpose the sheds, they have another use for them.

This shed floor got damaged when we were operating so in order to repair it we just wanted to make sure there was no contamination, so we had Ramboll come out and sample the subsoils under the damaged slab and we got the results back and everything was OK so we just removed that down to a depth of about 230mm I think it was. We are just out to tender at the moment to replace that section of slab.

So these are the dust results up to the end of November and we are managing to keep the dust levels below the limit of four grams per square metre / month and the prevailing winds - it's sort of a transition month, November, heading from getting the westerly winds during winter leading towards more southerly and north easterly winds, but we use that data to look at if we're having an effect on the environment so yeah predominantly the wind you can see there the low speed winds, less than seven KPH from the South and East and the higher velocity winds generally the South or the North.

These are the locations of the five dust deposition gauges. Everything would look pretty normal but now that we have more of the site exposed we are trying to plant more grass so Kerry's gardeners will be seeding more areas and we're also going to be hydro mulching and setting up portable sprinklers and we also have a water truck available.

Once CMA have left site and they'll probably take their water truck away will have another one come in just to wet areas down when we have hot dry weather, just to avoid dust.

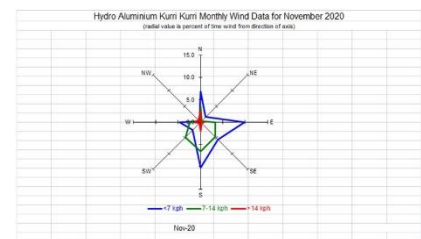
Richard would have showed this last time so this was Hunter Hydro Mulching just doing the footprint of the bath house that's all growing nicely now. The grass is like over a foot high and so we'll just continue working our way North from there seeding.

Unless there's any questions I'll hand over to Shannon but I will come back later on to talk about where we are up to with the approvals.

MU: We might just pause for a second and Andrew and just see if there are any questions at this point in time now we're welcoming Brad Wood also has jumped in there. Brad I did mute you because there was some noise there but welcome along Brad

BW: Thankyou.

## Dust Deposition Results – November 2020



## Site Locations



## Dust Mitigation – Hydromulching



- Further seeding & hydromulching prior to rain
- Irrigation with portable sprinklers & potable water
- Maintaining some water in the site dams for dust suppression
- Watercart to wet areas down in dry windy conditions
- Loading of SPL in an adjacent empty shed to reduce dust

MU: That's alright, did you have any questions of Andrew for this first bunch of slides

BW: No mate.

MU: Alright any other questions from others at this point, sounding like a no. OK alright thanks Andrew. We will pass over to Shannon. Welcome Shannon.

## 6 Rezoning update

SS: Thankyou very much Michael.

OK so the rezoning, some of your sort of involved with council so you may or may not know but for the benefit of the entire group recently the Department of Planning introduced what they refer to as the Planning System Acceleration Programme which specifically looked at planning reforms for the rezoning process.

As part of that, and this is somewhat me being sarcastic, as part of the strategy they were looking to streamline, simplify, unlock productivity and keep people in jobs. So the first task they did was to clear a backlog of planning proposals so any planning proposal that was more than four years of age, they gave a direction to the councils that they can either finalise it before the 31st of December or it will be terminated. I'll use the word terminated. I think it was rescind or other words used.

### Rezoning

#### Gateway Determination

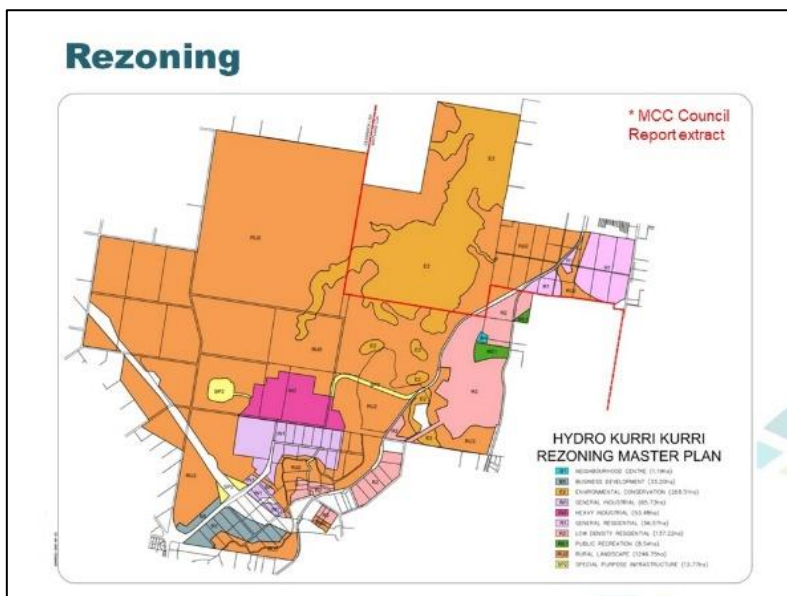
As part of the Planning System Acceleration Program to reform the NSW planning system, to streamline, simplify, unlock productivity and keep people in jobs.

Firstly, they cleared the backlog planning proposals that have remained under consideration for an extended period of time, generally proposals lodged more than 4 years ago.

As it is not possible to finalise the planning proposal by 31 December 2020 due to the outstanding matters, the Councils chose to submit revised Planning Proposals to the Department.

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So as the hydro planning proposal had a gateway it was issued in March 2016 that is more than four years old and as a result even though that we weren't in a position that we could finalise it but department then gave the councils that direction that they would need to then resubmit a new planning proposal in order to continue the rezoning process and subsequently once they did that then the original planning proposals would then cease.



So, this is the general Hydro rezoning master plan, this is the extract out of the Maitland City Council report. I just wanted to make that clear just in terms of if there's any, I don't think there's any real inconsistency between this and the plan only outside of the Hydro site with the extension of the South Maitland Railway Corridor which I'll talk to in a little bit.

MU: We might just mention just for those that may have forgotten we've got a couple of Uni students listening in as well. Shannon, the red line there that goes through sort of almost the centre diagonally across is the line between the Maitland LGA and the Cessnock LGA so that's why we've got two different rezonings happening concurrently

SS: Yeah the main difference between the original proposal that was submitted and what we put in this updated zoning plan is that the original proposal had what was known at the time as a as a biocertification of the LEP amendment and that would be that the offset of the development footprint as what is now a stewardship site (what used to be a biobank site) that would could occur concurrently with the zoning being gazetted by the Minister for Planning.





So with the changes they've actually now sort of de-coupled that process so that the rezoning can continue on with the Department of planning and then there is a separate process which is simply called a biocertification process but that occurs with the Biodiversity Conservation Division and it's a separate application and it's in place and supports, and looks at offsetting the development footprint.

So in essence what the updated zoning plan now does it just simply looks to rezone the development land and so those areas through the site particularly on the eastern side where you see the R1 and the R2 zone which is just the residential zones in the Maitland and Cessnock LGA and then around their development footprint, and former smelter footprint is IN3 zone and IN1 zone which are consistent with general and heavy industrial land and then to the South of the Hart Rd interchange is the business zone which is now a B5 zone. So overall it's still just looking at residential and industrial land and business land being part of the plan and then there's a couple of SP2 areas, one being the containment cell footprint which as Andrew said hopefully will have an approval within a day or so and then also that potential SP2 rail corridor that comes in off the current South Maitland railway into the employment land allowing for the opportunity for potential intermodal or other rail facilities to be accommodated on the site.

Then there's a few other small pockets of recreation land within Cessnock LGA. There will be some pocket parks and smaller areas in the residential land within the Maitland local government area but there's no need to rezone that because small pocket parks are permissible within the proposed residential zone but there will be a larger recreation area in the Cessnock LGA and there's some current negotiations with Cessnock Council about a larger regional sporting type facility but that's not it's not part of the current plan but that's part of some of Cessnock's strategic thinking.

Finally you can see the couple of SP2 areas adjacent to the Hart Rd interchange that just allows for the construction of the northern ramps at some future point in time by the developer.

Any questions on the zone plan while we still have it up on the screen?

BW: Will Dawes Ave, Bowdich Ave and McLeod Rd be getting rezoned?

SS: At this stage the proposal is to rezone those areas so you can see that there's areas that are identified as R2. There is obviously

white spaces within the plan which are the gaps. Generally, they are adjoining or other landowners but not owned by Hydro.

It is up to Council if they're willing if they wish to include some additional land so there are sort of a number of small areas of the site which are not owned by Hydro which council has indicated that they would look to rezone as part of the proposal. Does that answer the question?

BW: Yep

MU: Toby has his hand up, Toby do you have a question?

TT: No, it is all clear to me.

MU: Alright Rod you have one?

RD: Yes thank you, Shannon I thought you mentioned when I was listening to you then that the developer will be responsible for the construction of the North bound ramps on the HEX. Is that true?

SS: That's a matter of negotiation with Transport for New South Wales. I think what we will be clear at the moment is that there's no intention from Hydro to build northern ramps as part of the planning proposal or the rezoning or any other sort of development, but once the rezoning is completed then it will be up to the developer to facilitate future development. I anticipate that at some point they'll be requirement to build northern ramps now whether that's a developer requirement whether it's a Transport for New South Wales whether it's a combination of contributions from council because the use of Hart Rd has been a little bit different and it's been higher demand than what was originally anticipated I think that's a discussion that's going to occur further down the track.

RD: Thank you

SS: So Maitland at a council meeting in November put forward this council resolution which is pursuant to the EPA Act they are submitting two revised planning proposals for the Gillieston Heights South planning proposal area. So if you go to the next slide I just included the breakdown just to make everyone aware.

What Maitland have actually done is originally they had the Gillieston Heights Southern precinct which included the Hydro site and then also land on the eastern side of Cessnock Rd. The larger landowner of part of that was Warby and then there was a number, I think about five or six smaller landowners.

That area of the site hasn't progressed probably as quickly as what the Hydro site has done. There's a few minor issues I think that they need to still satisfy to get an exhibition. Maitland council

## Rezoning

### Maitland

Pursuant to Section 3.34(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Council submit two (2) revised planning proposals, Gillieston Heights South Planning Proposal (Western Precinct) and Planning Proposal (Eastern Precinct), to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, seeking new Gateway determinations.

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## Rezoning

\* MCC Council  
Report extract,  
photograph and  
red outline.



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## Rezoning

### Maitland

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The new Gateway Determination was issued 1st December 2020, for a 12 month period.

The Planning Proposal for the Gillieston Heights South (Western Precinct) was placed on public exhibition Tuesday 15 December through until 1 February 2021.

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didn't want to see that delay that Hydro planning proposal, they wanted to try to exhibit concurrent with the Cessnock and so when they reported to council they split it into a West precinct and an East precinct for the purposes of progressing the planning proposal.

So that's the first point is the same resolution, the new Gateway determination was issued by the Department of planning on the 1st of December 2020 for a 12 month period and the planning proposal for the Gillieston Heights Southern Western precinct which is the Hydro land was placed on public exhibition on 15th of December until the 1st of February.

So similarly, Cessnock reported that planning proposal up to a meeting in November and the council resolution was pursuant to the EPA act, to request new gateway determination gateway termination was issued 1st December 2020 for a 12 month period.

The Cessnock planning proposal for the Hydro LEP amendment is the same exhibition period as what the Maitland exhibition period is.

We've included this extract from the Cessnock council report. It identifies the land subject to the planning proposal which is largely the Hydro land. As I said probably the main difference between the original plan proposal on this one is the inclusion of the former South Maitland railway corridor.

We've had ongoing consultation with South Maitland railway for the whole period of the project. Obviously they've got an active corridor which runs through the site and then they've got a number of former corridors and other things that as part of their assets right across between the Maitland and Cessnock LGA. One of those runs throughout our project site and then runs through the back of Heddon Greta adjacent to the new Puma service station just near the Kurri Kurri interchange.

As part of the discussion with Cessnock council and with South Maitland railway it's considered that there's merit in having that corridor maintained and potentially could be used as a future pedestrian or cycle network link between the Kurri Kurri area to the South and along the back of Heddon Greta quickly and up into the development site so that that corridor is now part of the plan proposals proposed to rezone R1, public recreation, and then at a future point in time it will be acquired by Cessnock City Council.

Any questions on the Cessnock or Maitland planning proposals? So that summarises what we talked through. So the new gateway determinations from the 1st December, so 12 month time frame.

## Rezoning

### Cessnock

That Council forwards the Hydro Kurri Kurri Planning Proposal to the Department of Planning and Environment pursuant to Section 3.34(1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 requesting a new Gateway determination.

The new Gateway Determination was issued 1st December 2020, for a 12 month period.

The Planning Proposal 18/2015/2 – Hydro Kurri Kurri was placed on public exhibition Tuesday 15 December through until 1 February 2021.

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## Rezoning

\* CCC Council  
Report extract,  
photograph and  
red outline.



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## Rezoning

### New Gateway Determinations

Issued by the Department on 1st December. Key aspects:

- 12 month timeframe;
- Outstanding matters relating to traffic to be resolved;
- Matters relating to biodiversity to be addressed via the BCAR (Biodiversity Certification Assessment Report); and,
- Other minor matters to be resolved.

Both Councils have commenced exhibition concurrently. The Department may be exhibiting the HEX Corridor Strategy at the same time. (awaiting confirmation)

As exhibition is over Christmas/New Year period, it will be longer than the required 28 days (as required by the Gateway condition), through until 1st February 2021

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There are a number of outstanding matters and conditions that are in those, the key one being traffic, which I think some people involved in the CRG as well as Council are aware that's Transport for New South Wales has been preparing the Cessnock Road Corridor Strategy. The exhibition of that has been delayed from what was going to occur being this year, to late this year, to now early next year and that's got some matters in respect to intersection locations, duplication of Cessnock Rd, consolidation of intersections and other matters around that. So there will be some traffic work that will need to be done to support the rezoning which will be undertaken in conjunction with Transport for New South Wales work and that's both for the Cessnock Rd corridor as well as the Hunter Expressway in the Hart Road interchange and the employment land and any traffic that's could be potentially generated off that. And then mitigation measures which again will unlikely be delivered by Hydro will be more than likely be delivered by the developer in conjunction with any approvals on the site.

Other matters also relate to the BCAR and then there's a few other minor matters that still need to be resolved: bushfire because there's an updated bushfire legislation and also some contamination and things because there's remediation, and other works still ongoing on the site. So both councils commenced exhibition a couple of days ago from what I understood that there was going to be the Hunter Expressway corridor strategy that would be exhibited from the Department of Planning at a similar time frame which is likely to be a commencement or around the 15th or 16th of December. I just checked the website now it still doesn't appear to be up, so I don't know. I tried to contact the Department today again and there I didn't really get a response so my understanding is that it could potentially be on exhibition now if it doesn't get put up in the next day or so it's likely to be held off until in January sometime.

MU: Rod you have a question there?

RD: Yes I have. In relation to the corridor study, they are still measuring traffic flow on the on the ramps at Hart road and another ramp so I'm guessing that this corridor study isn't complete and people will have already been on the council website looking at the exhibition period and this COVID traffic flow is the biggest back as far as 2014 when the expressway opened. Is that true that we don't have current updated upgraded traffic numbers?

SS: I'll answer the first part Rod in regard to the Hydro planning proposal. So yeah, you're correct, so the traffic assessment report



that was prepared with the original application when it was made by Hydro in 2015. That contained traffic and data that was collected in 2014 and it was modelled based on that data at the time. Since the application was lodged there's been ongoing consultation between council and RMS and also the department around the project. Some of that related to a range of matters which you probably are aware of which included flooding, it included biodiversity, included all these other things, and the issue around traffic was really sort of held in abeyance, pending some of these other matters being resolved.

There was discussion from day one that I was aware of when the application for the rezoning was lodged, that there was going to be this broader network assessment between Maitland council and Cessnock council and RMS around that Cessnock corridor. Unfortunately that work didn't get commenced until late 2019 early 2020 and so it's probably fairly well I mean it's acknowledged on our side I think will be acknowledged on council's side that the traffic data that's there is outdated but the problem we had is that we couldn't start doing any more updated traffic work until after this corridor strategy was done and so when they first started it at the end of last year it was supposed to be finished by June this year. It still hasn't been made public as yet so we don't know what the results are we can't get access to that information but the revised gateway when it was issued by the Department last year clearly said that we needed to do additional traffic work but that traffic work couldn't be done until we knew the outcomes of the corridor strategy.

MU: I'll just jump in there and just check Ian Rush did you have anything else you'd like to add to that is there any Intel from your perspective

IR: Not really, not much more than what Shannon said. I agree with everything Shannon just said then. The only other thing I would say is we haven't received the MR195 corridor strategy that Shannon is referring to. We haven't seen the final version of that. They are still finalising that document and that will give us a good basis to move forward in in terms of traffic so when I say them I mean the Department of Planning have funded that study and it's been carried out by Transport for New South Wales but until we get that final study it's very difficult to understand exactly what Transport for New South Wales wants and move forward with some of those transport issues. So, it's acknowledged as a matter that needs further consideration but we can't really do that until the Department of Planning come out with that final Main Road 195 corridor strategy.

MU: Thanks Ian back to you Shannon.

SS: Just finally I was going to say so the Gateway determination. I mean if anyone actually looks at it if you've got a keen planning interest which I'm sure many people do it actually states that there's a requirement for the exhibition to be for 28 days but due to the fact that it's going to be held over the Christmas period both councils of nominated to run the exhibition from 15th of December through to the 1st of February

MU: I take it that they're on exhibition at both the administration centres and the local libraries that that's generally the case.

IR: That's right so both libraries and there is as you say documents have been set up at the admin centre.

MU: Rod you have a question on that?

RD: Just a quick question on that. I've been following the various Facebook pages in the area and one of the comments on the Facebook pages was they can't seem to see all the exhibition information on Cessnock website and I was just wondering is the same exhibition information on the Hydro website?

MU: To my knowledge there's no there's been no update of information on to the Hydro site. It would probably be a good idea to do that Rod, so thanks for thanks for the heads up on that we'll see if we can't get a link put through from the Hydro site, to the exhibition.

RD: Ian might want to follow this up at people saying that they can't download some of the information off the Cessnock website.

IR: Yeah, I can certainly look into that lot I wasn't aware of that being issue but any particular documents that you're aware of the can't be downloaded I can certainly aware of that.

RD: The only document that surfaced was in relation to the North ramps and the other information was related to the latest asbestos report on asbestos contamination on the site and I responded to one of those today in relation to the old Loxford five acre farms where the rehabilitation is taking place on those. Is there a current 2020 report on asbestos contamination?

SS: Andrew, I'll defer to Andrew on that one.

AW: I'm not sure Rod what you talking about the when you say Loxford 5 acre farms where exactly is that.

RD: All the old chicken farms Andrew. You've cleaned up some serious ...

AW: So we've been cleaning up chicken farms on Bowditch.



SS: I'm not sure how much information is generally disclosed but I know talking to Richard and working through with the councils that know that there's a number of sort of draft site audit statements that have been prepared but I think they were waiting for the confirmation around the zoning footprint or the proposed zones just to make sure they're consistent with what was proposed.

So yes, I think at the moment there's a number of draft reports you know most of the work has been done but it's just a matter of you can't really make them public because until all the works are completed because all you're going to do is you have to keep updating all the audit reports continually as different bits and pieces are done.

RD: Not a problem.

IR: I'm just having a look at the website now right and there's a fair few documents there I'm downloading the contamination report at the moment I don't seem to be having too many issues getting them but I'll certainly look into that chat more tomorrow but I don't seem to be having too much of an issue with our website.

RD: That could be people in areas where there are poor download speeds.

IR: They are big documents Rod, some of them are 200 megabytes or so. So maybe that's it maybe that's the problem.

RD: It could be people with poor download speed.

MU: Just in relation to the asbestos mentioned I guess during the course of the last year or more I suppose with these presentations we've seen lots of slides where some of those houses and chook sheds and things have been demolished and where they've found asbestos they've gone through that process and then they've had the independent auditor sign off in a various sites when they are clean and so if they aren't clean they haven't been signed off kind of thing but I know that Ramboll have been heavily involved in finding and identifying and cherry picking or whatever it is that they call it these days to find the asbestos and get rid of it so no doubt their reporting would be fairly detailed, I would expect.

AW: There is a report we call the Buffer Zone Asbestos Validation Report that was prepared by Ramboll from all that work and I think that's currently with Ross McFarland for review and he should be issuing a site audit statement very soon.

MU: So, Ross as the independent auditor?

AW: Yes, and there's another half a dozen reports that Ramboll are preparing progressively for the smelter site which are going to

Ross for review with the view to getting a site audit statement for the smelter site for everything except the work that's about to happen with Daracon on the capped waste stockpile, by April next year.

DG: Has the EPA signed off on that?

AW: Ross McFarland is the EPA's representative as the EPA accredited side auditor he is actually ex EPA but he now works for AECOM.

AG: They going to be on the display at the Kurri library or only the Cessnock library for the plans does anybody know?

AW: I'll have to get back to you maybe at the next meeting when Richard's back we can talk about that.

AG: OK well I've gotta say bye, Merry Christmas.

RD: Just a quick interruption, now on exhibition at Kurri library

MU: Thanks Alan.

SS: I'm one thing I was going to say Michael as well is you know we gotta be clear that documentation is being put up at the moment is in support of the planning proposal and the rezoning and so you know the level of contamination assessment that is required to support the rezoning of the land to the proposed employment land or residentially whatever it may be, there are thresholds but it's you know you don't necessarily provide a site audit statement sign off as such to rezone the land. There is that Hydro's working between you know what work is normally required obviously there's a higher level of interest because of the past history of the site but to actually rezone the land don't necessarily require a full site audit statement it is required a level of contamination so that the council is comfortable that the land is suitable for a future land use.

MU: thanks Shannon any other questions of Shannon I can't see everyone's face so I can't tell if you raising your hand or not but if you like to ask a question here's an opportunity to unmute yourself and ask away.

Sounding a like a no at this point. thanks Shannon, are you are still going?

SS: I've got more, planning always gives more.

So the BCAR. So the other big component of work that we've got obviously is the biodiversity.

From day one we knew biodiversity was a significant issue and also from day one Hydro wanted to have a significant

## BCAR

### Biodiversity Certification Assessment Report

A Biodiversity Certification Assessment Report (BCAR) has been prepared by GHD to identify the potential impacts on biodiversity associated with conferring biodiversity certification for the development footprint.

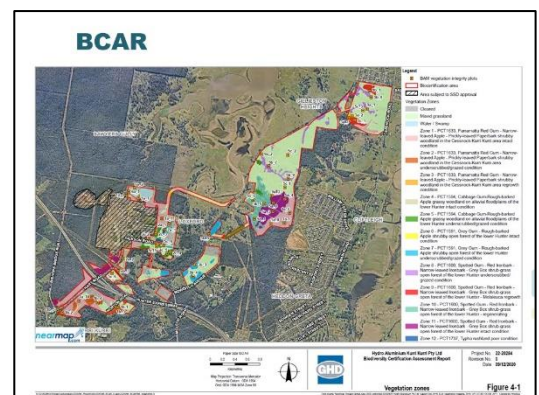
#### Key numbers of the BioCert:

- biodiversity certification would result in impacts to 125 ha of native vegetation comprised of five plant community types (PCT's);
- 68.2 ha of the subject site is comprised of intact vegetation;
- 23.9 ha of moderate condition vegetation that is either regrowth or has been previously disturbed;
- 32.9 ha of highly disturbed poor condition vegetation;
- Overall, the proposed biocertification is for approximately 300 ha of Hydro land.

PROPOSED  
FUTURES



So again, this is just the overview of the rezoning proposal, just showing the different areas. You can see the red outline which is generally the development footprint. That's the area that is going to be bio-certified.



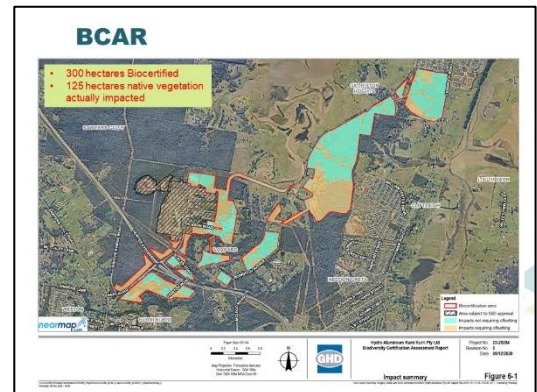
You'll see the hatched area which is across part of the smelter and also the containment cell that indicates the area that is part of the SSD application for the containment cell so there will be a requirement as a condition of the consent for that area, so you need to offset that as part of that project so there's no need to double up on that footprint as such, so then the offset area would be the land outside of that.

So this slide just gives you an idea or some of the survey effort that has been undertaken on the site so you can see it's a little bit hard to have a look at but there's plots that are taken across the overall landscape and then there's targeted transects, so the green lines are actually areas in which people have walked on-foot through the site and taking targeted transects so you can see this you know some of the cleared area or sparse areas it's often just a symbol or a few transects but once you get into the heavy vegetated areas they are literally transecting across the site to completely cover that area to undertake as part of their flora assessment.

Right next one Andrew. And so then this shows the ecological community, so that endangered ecological community so the EECs. It's broken down as you can see in the right hand side in the column there now there's intact condition, there's grazed condition or regrowth conditions, and this is for a range of different ecological communities and so across one particular community you might have three different classifications in terms of intact or regrowth, or under scrubbed, or those sorts of things.

So generally the majority of the site is the what's known as the Kurri Kurri sand swamp or there's the lower hunter spotted gum but there are a number of other communities which form smaller areas which have different levels of intactness or impacted areas and those sort of things. Any questions around vegetation communities types?

This is the last slide that I want to show just to capture some of those dot points from early on around the actual impacted area. So you can see here that the red outline is the full area that's going to bio-certified. So again as I said it's around 300 hectares. The light blue area impacts that are not requiring offset, so there are actually areas of the site which as you can see by the majority of the residential area or northern portion are areas of the site that could be developed without requiring offsets, but one of the reasons why we are actually offsetting that area is because you know there might be individual trees and things like that, that if you do offset it at this point in the process then it becomes much





simpler for council to approve a subdivision application or a development on that site in the future.

So it's more or less just providing a bit of a safeguard to say that you don't necessarily have to offset it at this point in time you could do an old seven part test and say that's not significant impact but Hydro wanted to make sure that any impact on native vegetation in the future you know is offset as part of the process, so you can see that that other orangey coloured area is the 125 hectares of native vegetation that is actually impacted and as I said probably about half of that is actually intact vegetation.

So is there any questions on that one which is the overall biocert area, the area of the site that could be developed without actually having offsets and then the other area which is 125 hectares which would require offsetting.

MU: Any questions?

SS: Similar to the planned the proposal there will be consultation with council, it will be reviewed then lodged with BCD probably February next year. Then the document will be put on exhibition which I'm assuming will be 28 days. All this information will be available to the public then there will be a discussion with BCD and the Department about the appropriateness of impacts etc.

RD: Have all the Aboriginal archaeology studies been completed for the Hydro site?

SS: Rod, you always come up with a curly question right at the end.

As part of everything else that was done, yes. When we talk about environmental assessment for the Hydro planning proposal the word we use is Comprehensive. So, we had AECOM do a full Aboriginal archaeology assessment of the site as part of the original planning proposal. I think Ian will probably back this up as I haven't looked at it. That will be available as part of the exhibition documents. What we have found out due to the period of time which it has taken to go through the planning proposal process and the rezoning process. As we've seen with bushfires and seen with biodiversity I think there might have been more to others, is that in that time the Office of Environment & Heritage, or whatever they called now, have updated the legislation or the methodology around Aboriginal archaeology and Indigenous archaeology assessment and so there is a current question being put from the Department and councils to that office as to whether there is a need to update or do further work or whether their current report still stands so but in terms of the assessment work you know we consulted with all the local groups we had local groups out on site

as part of the survey you know we satisfied all the requirements at the time but as I said my understanding is that recently in the last 12 months or six months or something like that, there's been updates to the legislation and there's a current outstanding question as to whether we need to do additional work.

IR: I think too, if I could jump in there Shannon I agree with everything you said in that document the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment is actually available on the website as well our website Rod, and I believe the original gateway determination, correct me if I'm wrong here Shannon, didn't include a requirement there to consult with the Local Aboriginal Land Councils and that was one of the issues that came up recently as well. Certainly that Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment, the original one is available on the website.

RD: I'm comfortable with that. All I wanted to know was if all the studies were complete because as Darren and I would note the studies for the Tester's Hollow crossing have been completed but then some questions are asked in the last 48 hours or so about Aboriginal studies. At least he has it covered off then were OK but if they're not and then there could be additional request for more archaeological studies around Wentworth Swamps.

SS: I think that could simply be, I mean Tester's Hollow is at the construction stage so it may be that they are satisfied that the current work that's done for the rezoning process but there will be more work required as part of the subdivision application or prior to commencement of works or things like that.

RD: Thank you.

MU: Good question Rod, thank you for that. Any other questions of Shannon before we let him sit back quietly on mute?

SS: Alright thank you very much.

MU: Thanks again Shannon, we expect to hear from you again in due course. Alright so back to you then Andrew, thank you.

## 7 Approvals and other items

AW: OK, so in terms of the approval of our State Significant Development with the Department of Planning, we have signed a voluntary planning agreement which relates to the long-term ownership of the cell and associated funding.

We've also put up financial security in the form of a number of bank guarantees to cover off the actual construction and

### Environmental Impact Assessment for Stage 2 Demolition / Remediation DA (SSD6666)

- Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) relating to the long term cell ownership and associated funding, plus project financial security and independent certification of the project completion has been concluded and is currently being processed through the normal system for VPA's.
- Project consent will be granted before the end of this year. All the details including all of the application reports, DoPIE assessment report, conditions of consent and formal instrument of consent will be available on the DoPIE major projects website.

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/11486>

### Remediation

- Following project approval:-
  - Management Plans to be formally submitted to DoPIE for approval:-
    - Hydro Kurri Kurri Remediation Works Environmental Management Plan (RWEMP)
    - Appendix A Containment Cell Management Plan
    - Appendix B Site Access Plan
    - Appendix C Traffic Management Plan
    - Appendix D Air Quality Management Plan
    - Appendix E Noise Management Plan
    - Appendix F Soil and Water Management Plan
      - Appendix F1 - Leachate Management Plan
      - Appendix F2 - Contaminated Solids Management Plan
    - Appendix G Waste Management Plan including the Waste Inventory
    - Appendix H Energy Efficiency Plan
    - Appendix I Biodiversity Management Plan
    - Appendix J Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan
    - Appendix K Stakeholder Engagement Plan
    - Appendix L Workplace Health & Safety Management Plan
    - Appendix M Pollution Incident & Emergency Response Management Plan
- These plans have already been informally reviewed by DoPIE and comments received. A final update following receipt of the final conditions of consent won't take long.
- Hydro is now working on the procurement of 30,000 tonnes of gypsum to treat the waste within the Capped Waste Stockpile. This is a Principal-Supplied item.



remediation work that we're engaging Daracon to do and then there's two other bank guarantees related to the management of cell in perpetuity. One for the initial five-year period. And then the other one is for perpetuity.

So we're expecting the project consent will be granted any day now and I have a meeting tomorrow morning with Chris Ritchie from the Department of Planning as well as Shaun Taylor from Ramboll.

Hopefully it's very close and I believe that the Department have the assessment report ready to go and the final Conditions of Consent and the formal instrument of consent, and all of those documents have to be put up on the DPIE's Major Projects website for a 30 day notification period. And so that will be available to the public to review and because of the time it's taken, you know we've been going at this now for over 6 years, the Department have said that they'll allow us to start work before that 30 day period. It's just a formality.

On the next slide are the things that we're working on from our side. There's a number of management plans as you'll see here that we've already had reviewed by the Department and we've received comments back and we've made updates, but the plans can't be formally approved until after the Consent is received and then it's a matter of rubberstamping plans. That's just in case there's any changes to the Conditions of Consent, we just need to make sure we've addressed them in our plans but so this is the main document which is the RWEMP which stands for remediation works environmental management plan. There is the containment cell management plan which talks to the long-term management of the cell. Site access plan, a traffic management plan, air quality plan, noise management plan. The soil and water management plan which talks about how we're going to manage stormwater as well as leachate and contaminated soils. The waste management plan including a waste inventory which I've been updating regularly as we've progressed through the demolition works and we've been regularly surveying various stockpiles on site just to make sure that the volume of waste that we want to put in the cell, that we've got a handle on that and that it will fit within the constraints of the design of the cell. There's an energy efficiency plan, a biodiversity management plan, an Aboriginal heritage management plan, so on that there is an Aboriginal artefact in the area where the cells going we've consulted with Mindaribba, and the person that did the original study from AECOM, Dr Andrew McLaren, once we have the consent and the

## Remediation

- Once the Consent is received, Hydro will award Separable Portion 2 of the Contract, this is comprised of:-
  - SP2 / Part 1 – Project Infrastructure
  - SP2 / Part 2 – Containment Cell Stage 1
  - SP2 / Part 3 – Site Remediation & Material Transfer
  - SP2 / Part 4 – Containment Cell Stage 2 & Completion
- Daracon will commence preliminary activities in the new year:-
  - Procurement of liner materials (including required MQA)
  - Further site establishment, including erosion and sediment controls
  - Preparation of the East-West haul road
  - Clearing and grubbing of the containment cell area
  - Fencing of the containment cell area
  - Excavation required for cell and temporary stormwater and leachate detention basins including swale drains and rip rap installation
  - Leachate detention basin at the capped waste stockpile
  - Presentation by Daracon for the next CRG – Feb 21

CREATING  
PROSPEROUS  
FUTURES

plans have been approved we have to relocate that Aboriginal heritage item.

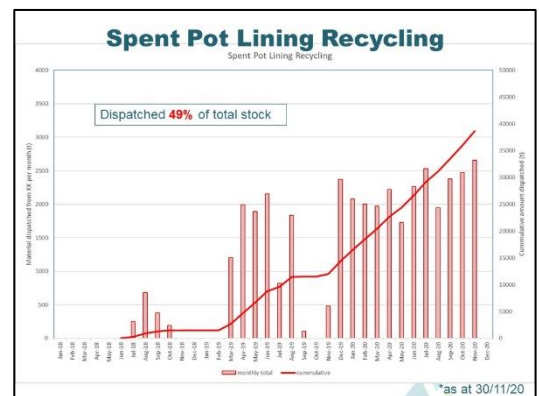
There is stakeholder engagement plan that Michael wrote for us. There is a work, health and safety management plan and a pollution incident and emergency response management plan.

The last one is a document that the EPA requires and we've had a plan that Kerry has been involved with writing and that's been in place for the last 15 to 20 years, I believe. We had to update that to incorporate the next phase of our project, the remediation works.

The final bullet point is in anticipation of getting the consent before Christmas we're now working on the procurement of 30,000 tonnes of gypsum which is to treat the waste within the capped waste stockpile to reduce the leachable fluoride that was a requirement from the EPA and that's a Principal-supplied item, which means we supply it to Daracon free of charge and that will be mixed with the waste before it goes into the cell.

Just for information the contract with Daracon is structured in two separable portions, portion one was just some work we had them do on site earlier this year which I've mentioned in previous meetings, which was relocation of some stockpiles and mobilising to site.

That's complete so the next separable portion we will be awarding as soon as we get the consent, and that is comprised of four subparts. Part one is the project infrastructure which is fencing the site where the containment cell will be built, and putting in erosion and sediment controls so things like sed-fencing, sediment detention basins, the swales that direct the stormwater into the basins, a leachate pond which will be lined with high density polyethylene. There will be one of those at the containment cell and a second one at the capped waste stockpile to store any leachate. That will happen as part of Part 1. Part 2 is the actual once the cell base is excavated, lining the base of the cell with the geosynthetic liners. Then Part 3 is the actual filling of the cell with waste. So the capped waste stockpile, the process waste in the 7a furnace, and the demo waste in 68 C and there's a few small areas on site that still need to be remediated. The stockpile of contaminated soil near the carbon plant and the footprint underneath there which was the bake furnace fume treatment centre which has some PAH impacts that has to be remediated and then the final part, Part 4 is the containment cell capping and completion of the project.



MU: Andrew are you going to say that but separable portion two part one is what you call early works basically getting everything under way and that's what you are talking about here in this. I'm pre-empting I guess the next set of bullet points?

AW: Yes, so the next phase will be hopefully starting week commencing the 18th of January Daracon will re-establish on site, then can start procuring the liner materials which is 12 weeks lead time I believe.

But the haul road, clearing and grubbing, fencing, the excavation the stormwater detention basin, the leachate ponds.

I'm hoping to get Daracon along to the next CRG in February so I think it would be good if they made a presentation of the work that they're going to be doing. A more detailed presentation so look forward to that.

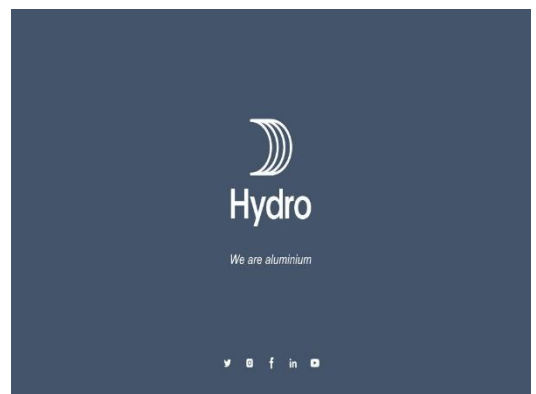
This is a graph of where currently up to with the recycling of the spent pot lining. We're currently at 49% just under 40,000 tonnes has been dispatched from site and still working with Regain to try and get the rest of the SPL, the other 51% processed and recycled by the end of next year. So we believe we're on track to get that completed.

Divestment I don't really have anything to talk about here because I'm not really involved so might just hold it off till Richard's back for the next meeting and he can report on where it's up to, yeah so are there any questions on any of the slides I've presented?

MU: Thanks Andrew. Shannon wanted to add something there?

SS: I just thought I'd say because I mean some people might find out or through other avenues or whatever it may be, because it may pop up somewhere, but I am aware that the gas fired power station project.

There was an issue of a I'm just reading off what I just opened, so there is an environmental planning assessment amendment - Kurri Kurri gas fired power station Project Order, which has been issued by the Department which states that the Kurri Kurri gas fired power station project will be included in schedule 5 as critical state significant infrastructure. So I don't think it really impacts on our day-to-day stuff for everything else but yeah, I just thought everyone in the CRG might want to be aware that proposed gas-fired or Kurri Kurri gas pipe out they are power station project which was announced by Snowy Hydro and the Prime Minister a few months ago. They've been going through a process with the Department obviously, and yeah it's now been included this critical



states it may be an infrastructure which gives them a certain pathway in terms of their SSD approval process.

AW: Yeah so maybe we'll get Richard to talk about that at the next meeting.

**MU:** I think that would be appropriate.

Alright any further questions to Andrew?

I can only see a few faces down the bottom of the screen so you'll have to shout out.

It certainly looks like things are starting to ramp up albeit at the slowing down end of the year, we were expecting a fairly busy start to the year then in that case Andrew.

No further questions to Andrew or Shannon? Very good. I'll just ask around the room then for any questions that may have come to you from the community or anything that jumps in, Rod.

## **8 CRG questions and answers**

RD: Just a quick one. I noticed that the mural landscape in front of the mural is untidy and I'm just wondering who is responsible to maintain the landscape around the base of that mural.

MU: Toby is just hanging up now to go and get his lawnmower. I'm not sure what the story is, does anybody know? Toby, Andrew?

AW: I don't believe we're responsible for maintaining that Hart Road corridor any longer I mean we were doing it when we were operating, but we haven't allowed for mowing that road corridor. Is that correct Kerry? Your guys aren't really doing that?

KH: Yeah, we are no longer involved on that other side of the interchange we are just on the smelter side that's as far as we go.

AW: So if you want to follow it up with council Rod you're most welcome to.

RD: It's not a council issue.

TT: Doesn't council maintain the road corridor?

MU: The road reserve depending on if it's a local road or a state road.

RD: It's a local road at the moment isn't it?

IR: It's probably a question for our Works and Infrastructure team. I certainly can't answer that. I know that in a residential area there's generally a view that residents will look after the adjoining Rd reserve but I'm not sure in a case like this whether it's a



council responsibility when you know the weeds get quite high or whether if it is a state road whether it's the RMS that would look after it but it might be a question for our works and infrastructure.

MU: OK thank you for that Andrew if you would mind just un-sharing that slide show now and then would be we become a bit bigger in the screen I think though with all the participants that we've got. Yep that would be good because we're basically just going to those that any further questions from the community reference group or from the community whether there's been anything else come through in the last couple of months. Silence.

RA: We are just waiting for it to progress through to the gateway is just taking a long time so it does it as one said earlier just as testers hollows probably got the real interest at the moment going in that way so until something happens from January February it's yeah that was up to.

## 9 All other business

MU: Great alright well thanks for that Robert.

Alright so any other business at all? I'd say probably not at this point in time look forward to all that movement that's going to happen in the new year our next meeting is down for the 18th of February being in two months' time from now on the 3rd Thursday as usual.

We might have a look to see if it's feasible to hold this meeting face to face at that time, lot can happen in two months, I've heard this means some more cases of covered this just this last couple of days so hopefully that'll be nipped in the bud and we'll all be right, hugging and handshaking by February, but we will see. We'll make a decision you know, between us on the best way forward. It could be part based to face and part by video conference.

We'll see how we go.

Alright if there's no further comments questions and so on I'll call the meeting to a close. It's just after 7:44. I'd like to thank you all again for your ongoing support of this project and the process. This is our 42nd meeting and you know this time next year will be up to 48 or 47 or something like that so that's pretty massive, so thank you all for your ongoing attendance you know it's been a long process and I think you've all earned a break now so will wish you a great holiday. Enjoy the Christmas break and I hope to see you all safe and well come 18th of February. Thanks very much everybody.



## **10 Meeting close**

Meeting closed: 7:44pm

Date of following meeting: 18/02/2020