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

Project	Hydro Kurri Kurri Site Redevelopment Project	From	Sonya Pascoe
Subject	Community Reference Group Meeting	Tel	1800 066 243
Venue/Date/Time	Thursday 19 August 2021 MS Teams video conference 6.05pm – 7.14pm	Job No	2218982
Copies to	All committee members		
Attendees	Mr Richard Brown – Managing Director, Hydro Kurri Kurri (RB) Mr Andrew Walker – Hydro Kurri Kurri Project Manager (AW) Mr Kerry McNaughton – Environmental Officer, Hydro Kurri Kurri (KM) Mrs Kerry Hallett – Hunter BEC (KH) Mr Andrew Neil – Manager Strategic Planning, Maitland City Council (AN) Mr Toby Thomas – Community representative, Towns with Heart (TT) Mr Iain Rush – Cessnock City Council (attending for Martin Johnson) (IR) Cr Robert Aitchison – Maitland City Council (RA) Mr Rod Doherty – Kurri Kurri Business Chamber (RD) Mr Alan Gray – Community representative - Retired Mineworkers (AG) Mr Michael Ulph – CRG Chair, GHD (MU) Ms Sonya Pascoe – Minutes, GHD (SP)		
Guests/observers	NA		
Apologies	NA		
Not present	Ms Tara Dever – CEO Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council (TD) Cr Darrin Gray – Cessnock City Council (DG) Mr Brad Wood – Community representative (BW) Ms Debra Ford - Community representative (DF) Mr Bill Metcalfe – Community representative (BM)		

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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

- Demolition / remediation update
- Approvals, rezoning and other items
- CRG questions and answers

3 Welcome and meeting opening

MU welcomed attendees, acknowledgement of country and noted apologies.

MU asked those present to declare any pecuniary interests.

MU notes that the APA pipeline item on the agenda has been removed for this CRG.

4 Last meeting minutes

TT moved the minutes.

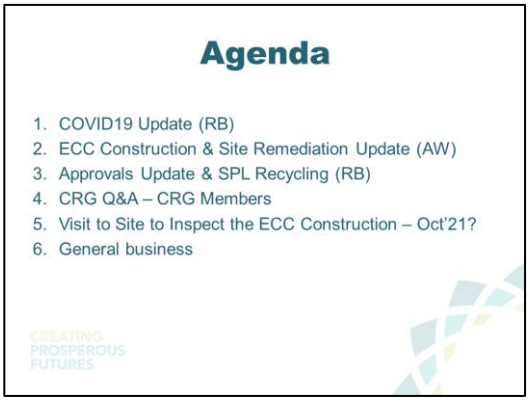
KH seconded the minutes.

5 Project Update

RB: Before Andrew starts, I snuck in a last-minute agenda item, more out of the times in which we live. Thought I'd give a bit of a brief COVID-19 update for site activities. As I'm sure you all appreciate, I don't need to go into the details about the difficulties we all find ourselves in, and everybody is experiencing the lockdowns in different ways.

That doesn't mean that the project is also unscathed – we are trying to manage as best we can the projects under, at times, fairly difficult circumstances. However, I guess we have got a bit of experience. So, from April-May last year, we've set up our COVID-safe plans and our management plans around those activities, and more or less were operating in accordance with those same protocols.

There are a few differences with the current restrictions around site access, and where people are coming from, and the like. And of course, we are, watching every 11 o'clock media conference to find out what changes there are today, and adopt those as quickly as we can in things going forward. So, effectively, in terms of the construction works, the remediation works on site, we aren't really seeing any changes. The contractor is able to manage the work within the health orders as they stand. What it probably means more so, is from the Hydro supervision and management side of things – so Andrew's team are split up and dividing their time amongst their presence on site, so we only have about 50 per cent of the project team on site at any one time, just to make sure we have got the bare minimum of oversight on the project.



We're not concerned, the contractors got a lot of contractual obligations we also have an independent engineer on site from time to time as well. So, there is plenty of project oversight, plenty of checks and balances within the program of works, so that there are hold points and witness points that we are needing to be there to see certain things. We're still pretty comfortable. It's not ideal but were satisfied how we can manage things going forward. And there are some of the Hydro personnel, myself included, who are working from home like you guys.

Beyond that, probably one of the biggest questions we've got going forward, is being alert not alarmed about potential changes coming up. We know there is a permit system about to be adopted, we are not privy to the details of that permit system as of yet and we don't know how that will affect our activity on site. We still have some deliveries of gypsum, whether or not they

constitute deliveries or whether they are part of the project works is to be determined. We are also about to start, as Andrew alluded, a big phase of the project, the lining of the cell, and the contractors of the cell lining have employees that technically reside in Sydney but have been in Newcastle for a number of months now doing work at another project. Their intention is to stay that way. However, our understanding is that when the permit system gets introduced it could be that they still need to provide a permit to prove they are actually not coming in and out of Sydney. Watch this space. That's probably it. I'll let Andrew talk about the project.

AW: Thanks Richard. So, as usual, I have got a number of photographs to show progress over the last two months. So, here's just a few shots taken with our drone looking at the cell, back in June.

At this point, Daracon are just finishing off trimming the base of the cell to the design levels for the sub-grade and you can see in this photo they have dug in one sump, which is in the northeast corner and the other one still hasn't been done.

I've got the same photos two months later. You can see the progress that's been made.

The drainage aggregate has continued to come in from Denman, and that's all on site. There's about 16 thousand tonnes and that goes in the base of the cell and that's where any leachate that forms as a result of rain while we're transporting waste from the capped waste stockpile to the cell. We collect it in that drainage aggregate and make its way to the sumps where it will be extracted and treated on site. I'll talk about the water treatment plant a bit later.

In this photo you can see what we call AEC2 – area of environmental concern, which is where the anode butts used to be

stored. That's been remediated and this is where were going to locate the water treatment plant. The excavator there is just making a level pad and a concrete slab is going to be poured there within the next few weeks and there will be four, 100,000 litre tanks of treated leachate will be stored there, and tested, and once the results come in it will be discharged to the storm water system. To the right of the excavator is the leachate buffer storage pond. There is one of those at the cell and one down there at the capped waste stockpile, in the right of that photo, and leachate will be pumped across into this pond and from there it will go through the water treatment plant and get treated.

This is a bit later on, in early July. You can see all the ramps are formed and the two sumps were dug in. We've also been building the roads. The perimeter road and the access road to the cell and this is testing of the pavement using a HILF density meter.

This is a grader laying the sub-base layer at the perimeter road.

Daracon have also been finishing off the drainage works. Last meeting, I showed a number of photographs showing all the drains going in under the four ramps that go into the cell. All that water leads into the sed (sediment) basins near the cell, sed basin 1 and sed basin 2, they've been putting the rip rap and rock on the outlets, which feed into two swale drains.

So, the previous photo was sed basin 1, this is sed basin 2. You can see rip rap on the inlet side and the outlet side.

And this is the swale drain and we just had to make a crossing point in the easement for the 132 KV powerlines which are currently not being used of course, but in the future, they will be used for the Snowy Hydro power station once it gets approved

and built. So, we just have to make it accessible for Ausgrid crews if they need it for any maintenance inspections on those powerlines, so we have done that.

This is the other swale drain on the northern side of the access road, and Daracon sprayed that with hydro mulch to try and get some vegetation growing.

This is just another photo of the leachate buffer storage pond. So, these two ponds they have to be lined with 600 mm thick clay-rich fill which has to be tested and has to conform to tech spec from GHD. And once the clay rich fill is installed, then it's lined with 2 mm HDPE liner, high density polyethylene, it's like a black plastic. And all that gets welded together, that's so that no leachate can escape from the pond. And that will be happening next week.

The other thing that Daracon has been doing is the rip and recompact of the sub-grade in the cell and last meeting I showed a number of photographs of the scrapers that did the excavation of the cell, and you will see them in the video that I'm going to show later. On the berms around the perimeter of the cell, about two-thirds of it is in-cut, so excavated, and the top third is in-fill. So that top one third has already been tested, it was compacted in 150 mm lifts, compacted and then the density was all tested and it was fine, so we don't have to rip and recompact the area that's in-fill. So, that's why you can see that line there. So, they go through with the ripper, they drop the tines on a grader and they rip the surface, and they compact it with a pad foot roller which is what you can see here.

Then they trim it with the grader to get it to the level that's in the 12D model, which is software inside the machine. It uses GPS

and it can trim to the exact contours that were designed as part of the detailed design.

And finally, they do a final roll with a smooth drum roller.

It was at this point that my team was involved with the proof roll test, so that's a hold point and we had to inspect the proof rolling of the whole cell. And we did find one or two soft spots, so that had to be boxed out, they dug down about 200 mm, removed that unsuitable material, replaced it with good clay and recompacted it. So that proof roll – it was explaining that last time as well – if there is any sinking of the roller, it doesn't hold up properly, you've got to replace it. So anyway, we've been over the whole cell, and the independent engineers inspected it and its all ready now, everyone is happy with it. And walking around inside of it now is

like a ballroom dance floor, it's so smooth. And that's now ready to be lined, and lining works should be starting next week.

This is another photograph, as you can see the clay is quite smooth where it's been rolled.

This is a little bit later, ripping and recompacting the base of the cell, the grader working there trimming it

Daracon have been digging the leachate collection trenches. So, these trenches will be lined the same as the rest of the cell, with the nine different layers of material. And the leachate pipes will be installed after all the liners have gone in and they will lead to the two sumps. And the cell actually drains towards the sumps, so it drains from the centre to the north and the south and then to the east.

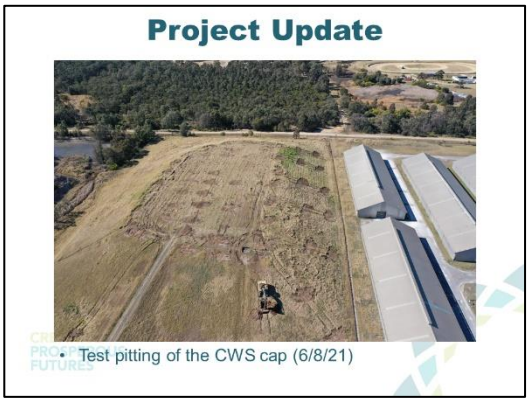
We've also been receiving gypsum and we now up over 13 thousand tonnes, we need 20 thousand tonnes in total and were targeting to get there by December. although I'm not sure how this permit system is going to affect that. Will have to talk to the supplier and make sure they have a permit for their drivers to transport the material, because some of them do live in Sydney.

MU: Where is the gypsum based, mate? Where does it come from?

AW: There are two locations. So, the mined gypsum comes from Glebe Island, and it actually comes up by ship from South Australia, there are gypsum mines near Adelaide. And then there's recycled gypsum, it's an operation at Kurnell. And so, we get truckloads of recycled gypsum as well, it's like gyprock that's gone through a recycling process, they remove the paper coating

and crush it up, its actually higher in calcium sulphate than the mined gypsum. And in the contract that we have with the supplier we are getting six thousand tonnes of recycled gypsum and the other 14 thousand tonnes is mined gypsum.

Daracon have also been working on their planning around looking to the future at how they are going to relocate the waste into the cell once the base and the cell walls have been lined and the cell is ready to receive waste. So, as part of that exercise they did about 50 test pits in the cap of the capped waste stockpile, they refilled them straight away as they were going. They wanted to do that to build a 3D model of what the waste looks like. They did that using the GPS in the excavator. And the measured the thickness of the clay cap and it was very consistent, one metre thick, and the topsoil was about a half a metre thick. With that much topsoil, we are now confident we'll have enough topsoil for the new cell from what we already have recovered on site, plus what we are going to recover from the capped waste stockpile.



Daracon have given us a draft work method statement, and what they're proposing to do is remove the half metre of topsoil first, then remove 700 mm of the clay cap and then a 300 mm veneer. And then actually dig the waste. They call it the "onion skin method", so they peel it back in layers so were only exposing the bare minimum amount of waste to wet weather, if we get rain, to minimise any leachate generation.

MU: The test pits that you did there, Andrew, how deep did they go?

AW: About 1.5 metres, that's through the topsoil and the clay and down to the to 200 mm thick gravel gas drainage layer.

MU: so, it wasn't really about identifying what was inside, it was more about understanding the nature of the design, and so on?

AW: Yeah, it was getting an accurate fix on the volume of the waste and measuring how consistent is the clay cap and the topsoil. But they are building that into their models how they are going to move their waste. And we are going to have a workshop within the next eight weeks to go into detail on how this waste will be relocated, because it does contain friable asbestos, and it will be Enviro Pacific Services that will moving the waste, they are Daracon's sub-contractor, and we want to have a workshop with them and they are going to present their methodology to us, and we will critique it and we will bring along some of our consultants who have worked on this in the past, looking at various options on how we were going to remediate the site. We looked at about half a dozen different options and were going to revisit some of that

work just to assist the contractor and make sure they are aware of the risks.

These are more photographs from those – we actually have six points that we have programmed into the drone and the drone flies to that point and takes the shot in exactly the same spot, so we can use that in the future to build a time lapse of the construction. I'll just run through how it's looking today.

So there, you can see this is looking from the south you can see the leachate drainage trenches, you can see the two sumps at the north-east and south-east corner, you can see the four ramps leading into the cell.

You can see the perimeter roads and the access road.

It's pretty much as per the drawing now and ready to start lining.

Just on the liner materials – all those rolls of liner materials you can see in the foreground, there has been a lot of work happening

over the last two months, a lot of sampling was done, as I mentioned last time, and thousands of tests have been done by a company called TRI, up on the Gold Coast. They are actually a pretty big company worldwide, they are an American company. Some of the samples had to go to the U.S., for certain tests, some tests could only be done over in the states. But most were done here. We are now nearly at the end of that – and all the material looks good, it passed so it can be released to be used on the cell. And that's the independent engineer that's overseeing that process, they are like independent engineers / CQA engineers, Construction Quality Assurance engineer.

The last two days on site, we have actually been doing something quite interesting. It's a trial pad, and what this involves is taking the clay that was excavated from the clay borrow pit for the cell, and actually making a pad to simulate the sub-grade. And Eco Line have been lining the cells, they have put down the GCD, which is the geo-composite drainage layer then the separation geotextile, geosynthetic clay liner, which is the bentonite, then the first layer of 2 mm HDPE, which is what you can see here in this photo. And that's what you call a secondary barrier. It's the lower one.

And onto that, they… we did a trial, the contractor raised this, it's not part of the design but they suggested that we should have an extra layer of separation geotextile to end the HDPE and the sand. So, we're doing a trial within a trial. We have done half with and half without this separation geotextile.

Then they have started putting down the sand, I spoke about the sand last time, the sand is coming from Metromix quarry at Teralba, and its sand that has come from crushing of conglomerate rock. So it's not beach sand, it's more like a river sand.

So that was pushed out and they had the sand in four different thicknesses, so one metre thick, 700 mm thick, 500 mm thick and 300 mm thick, which is the design thickness. And they wanted to test their work method of driving a 40 tonne moxie on the one metre thick sand layer, 700 mm thick sand layer. They had a smaller dump truck, which has less ground pressure, and they ran that backwards and forwards on the 500 mm layer. They drive the machines across it about ten times. And on the 300 mm they just use the positrack and the swamp dozer, which are the two machines you can see there. They ran them east-west, and today they actually removed all that sand, and they were looking for scratches in the east-west direction, which is perpendicular to the direction of the machines are going in there for filling. We were

looking for any damage caused by those machines, tracking east-west. If the scratches were north-south, that would suggest they were caused by this operation, which is pushing the sand out in the first instance. What we did find, though, is that the separation geotextile is a good idea because it did… although the scratches were quite small there was nothing more than 20 to 40 microns, and were allowed up to 200 microns, the side that had the protection geotextile had no scratches at all.

And tomorrow, they are going to build the primary barrier, that's another layer of geosynthetic clay, 2 mm HDPE. Then they'll put down protection geotextile and then the drainage aggregate, again in different thicknesses, to simulate what is going to happen in the cell. And we had two different types of drainage aggregate, one is 20 to 14, the finer one, and the other one is 50 to 20, the coarser one. And we'll put half the cell with the finer gravel and half the cell with the coarser, and we'll do the same tests, running the machines over the test pad and then carefully remove the materials and look for any damage caused to the HDPE. It's a very important test, so the contractor can work out what machines they can and can't use, because obviously, you don't want to be causing damage to the liners and putting holes in them. They have to last a long time, they have to last in perpetuity, so we want to do it properly.

MU: Andrew, when you get that second set on there, the second lot of geotextile and everything else on there, is that going to be a replica of the actual base of the cell?

AW: Yes, it will be an exact duplicate of what's going into the base of the cell. We will be doing a second trial for the side wall, we have to do that in the cell. Because on the side wall, you have what they call a soil confining layer, which is going to be clay from on-site that's there to protect the cell wall liner damage caused by filling the cell with waste. And we need to test how well that soil confining layer will hold up on the slope, because it's a one in four slope, and we don't want it falling down the slope. It does get covered with geotextile, which helps hold it up there in wet weather. It's like a practice run and you can test how you're going to build the cell with the machinery you are intending to use. Then you pull it all apart and see whether you caused any damage.

MU: I'm just wondering, and maybe we will talk about this later, but it might be a good opportunity to show, illustrate the composition of the cell. Because once the cell is built, and then it's filled, and then its covered, no one will be able to visualise what it's made of and how well designed it is, how well engineered it is. But if you're doing a scale model, if you like, but it's at real scale,

it's an opportunity to video that happening to show the different layers, all that sort of thing. It could be quite valuable.

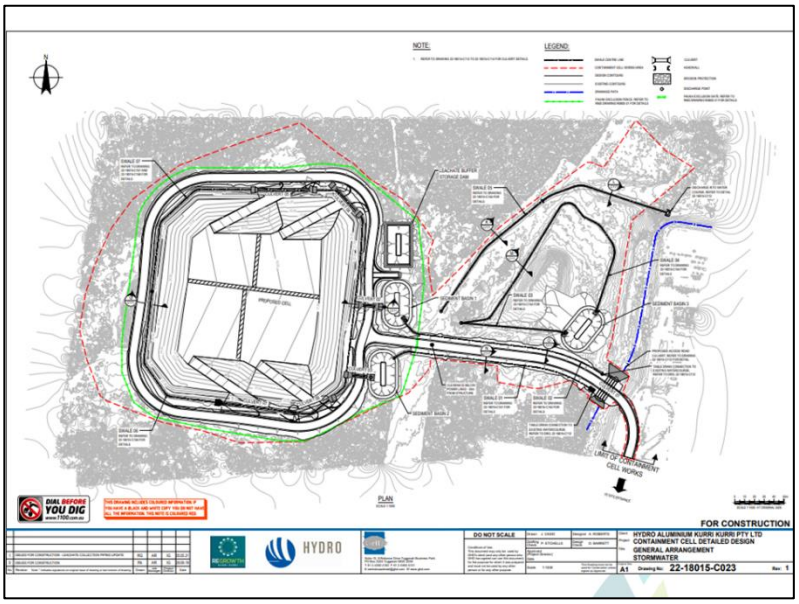
AW: Just on that, we have got a camera set up, which you can see in the bottom left-hand corner of the screen, and it takes a shot every one minute and we can get time lapse footage of the trial. We could put something together for the next meeting in two months' time to show and explain a little but more what we did. And we'll have the results to show the CRG then as well.

RB: I can actually see three cameras there, Andrew. There's two time lapse cameras on the bank, and there's one on the post, which is the one you are talking about.

AW: yes, correct.

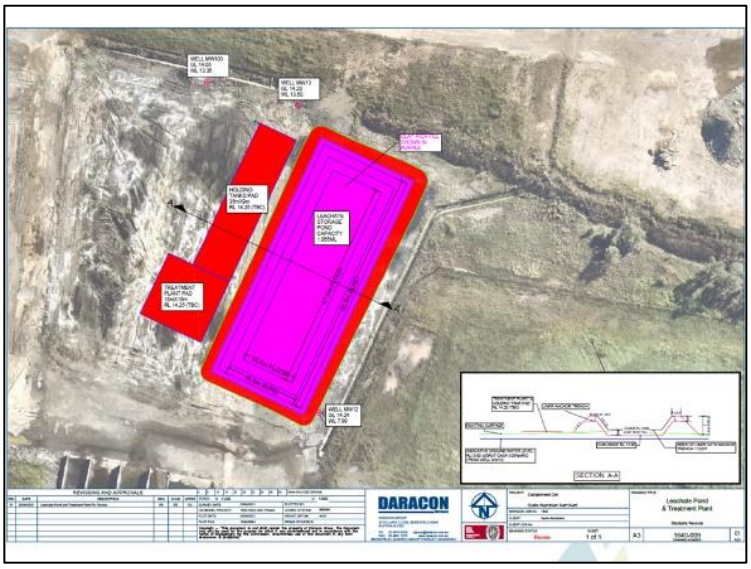
RB: and to your point Michael, there's also our resident videographer and photojournalist in Andrew Solomu who is out here taking photos a lot. It's a really important part of this process for us to document that for both our own purposes going forward but for communication on the quality of the construction.

MU: Yeah, absolutely, I mean the community is a long way away from this and ideally… last meeting we were talking about a period of hold point before you actually started building the cell and I thought wouldn't that be an interesting time to invite community members in to have a look at all the different component parts and so forth. But we can't really do that now, with COVID, but the better job we can do of capturing what's happening the more likely we be able to demonstrate in a convincing way just how well this thing has been built.



AW: That's just a drawing of the cell which explains what I was talking about with the four ramps. There are some berms yet to go in, but that happens as part of the lining process, which separates the cell into four compartments. And when we fill the cell, we are actually going to fill the two compartments on the east side first and then the west side second. And those leachate pipes I was talking about is actually like a sliding joint, and that's on the two western cells so we can move a section of pipe and cap it. So, if we have a rain event… obviously any rain that falls on the waste needs to be treated as leachate, so any rain that falls in the two eastern compartments will be pumped to the leachate pond, which is the one at the northern end. But by capping and blocking off the pipes in the two western cells, if they're empty, it can just be treated as normal storm water, can just pump that water into the two sed basins. We test it, anyway, before we discharge it to the creek. So Daracon will pump it from sed basin 1 and 2, to sed basin 3, and from there it is tested, and it has to be flocculated before it can be discharged just to remove the sediments. Looks very much like the drawing now, really taking shape.

We are also taking on approval for the temporary water treatment plant, and we had a meeting with the EPA and a member of the Department of Planning to go over some technical questions from the EPA, and we had a follow up meeting with Daracon and EPS – Envrio Pacific Services – who are going to supply the water treatment plant. And I think we're nearly there, we're hoping we'll get the approval sometime within the next four weeks.



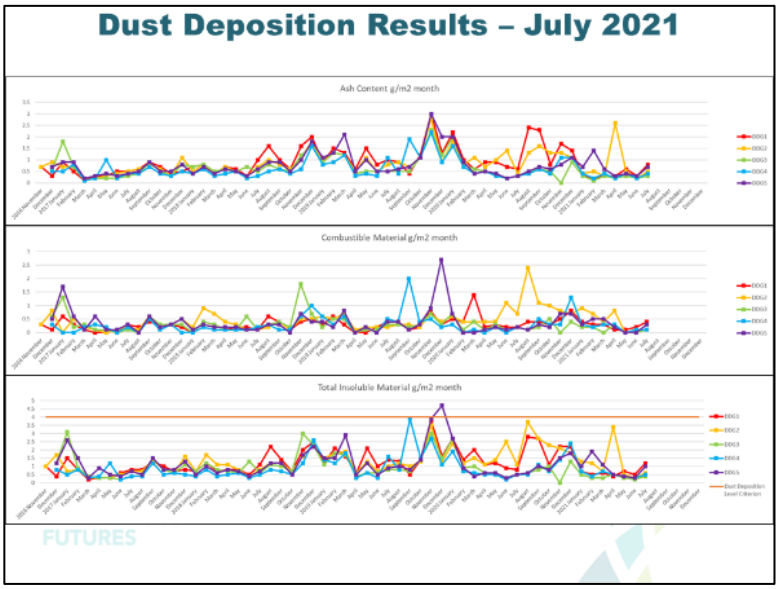
I showed this slide last time, but that's basically where it's going. So, the leachate pond has been built, it has just got to be lined, and the concrete pad is going in for the treatment plant and the

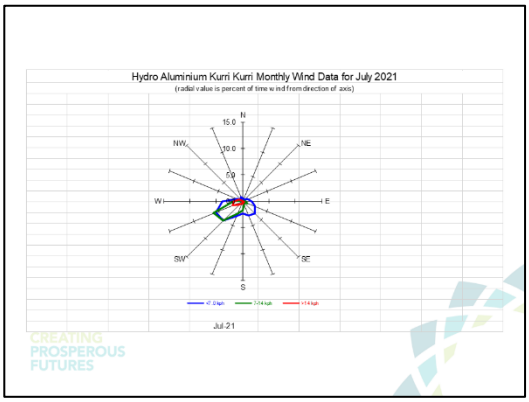
TWTP approval process

- 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 DPIE Water Group.
- Assistance received from Daracon & EPS on the technical questions about the TWTP to inform the SEE responses to the EPA and DPIE.
- The updated Statement of Environmental Effects was formally re-submitted to DPIE for approval on 8/6/21.
- A meeting has been held recently with EPA & DPIE to answer some further technical questions.

CREATING PROSPEROUS FUTURES

holding tanks will go into the north of the treatment plant. The capped waste stockpile is to the right. Daracon, as part of the waste methodology will be digging a small sump in that north-western corner and if it does rain, any leachate will flow to that point and can be pumped across into the storage pond, then get treated.





As usual, Kerry has continued to take samples from our five dust deposition gauges and results for June and July were both low, well below the limit of 4 grams per square metre per month.

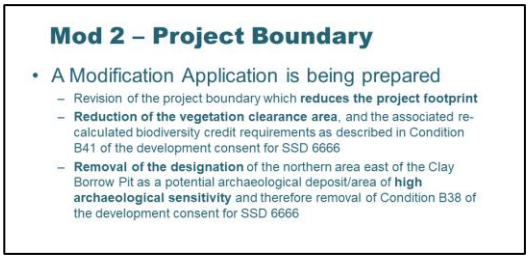
And the wind direction was south-east to south-west.

So, we keep an eye on one and two, when its coming from the west and they been good. And as we head into the warmer weather it will swing around to the northeast, and we will obviously be watching three, four and five.

That's it for me, so before I hand over to Richard, were there any questions? I'll show the video at the end.

MU: I would mention that Allan Gray has joined us at about 6:25pm. Alright, no questions? Thanks Richard.

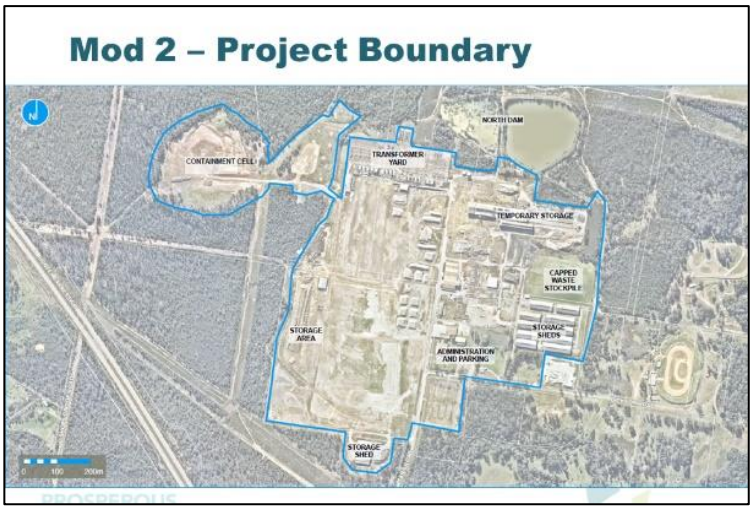
RB: So now we have got our first modification up and away we're just about to lodge our second application for a modification of the consent. It is a little less technical and certainly in our view, less of an issue I suppose but that remains to be seen. The main elements to mod 2 are predominantly around the reduction of, or the definition of the project footprint, I will show you in a second what that means. Associated with that is the reduced are of veg clearance. So, when we first proposed the project, there was a certain estimated project boundary and we did an assessment of

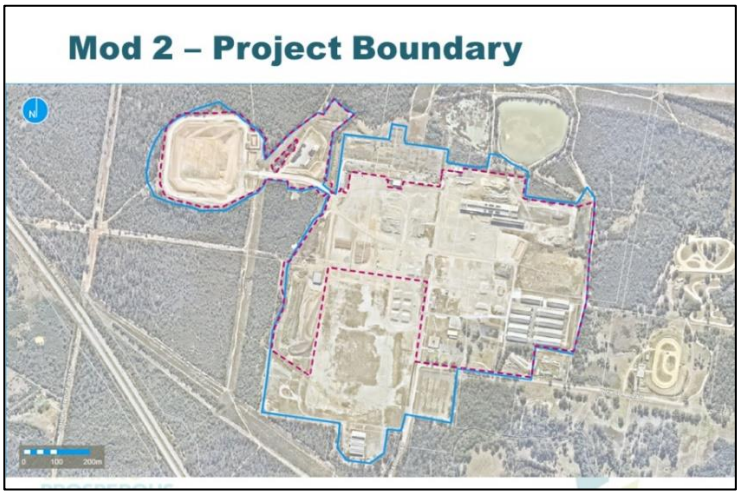


the biodiversity impacts of clearing all the veg within that project boundary. Now that we have actually had the design finalised, and built the cell, we know exactly what we've needed to clear, and that's actually less than what was originally proposed. So, we're going back to request a reduction in the veg clearing area.

That's important because one of the consent conditions of the veg clearing was the retirement of a number of biodiversity credits, both ecosystem and species credits. Now that we don't have to clear that area, we need to retire less credits and get that endorsed by planning and biodiversity conservation. The other element to this was there was a part of the site that was designated as an area having high archaeological sensitivity as a potential Aboriginal site. And on further investigation we found that it was actually fill that was probably resulting from construction works from the early eighties, and we had to get that area removed. And I'll show you what that means in a minute and the process we have been through.

RB: Very good. So that is the project footprint as defined by the consent, everything within that blue line. It originally – I don't know if you recall, you probably have got good memories, but many, many years ago, the project was actually originally associated with both the remediation and the demolition works. And the reason that the project footprint looks the way it does is because we were incorporating the demolition activities in and around the smelter. Now of course, we've moved on, the demolition works were approved through another process and are largely completed, so we are now looking to adjust the project boundary to allow for potential future development. So that basically free's up some of the constraints that the project approval is in parts of the site.





So, what it will look like now is now within the dashed line. So, a couple of features that you can see there are a large part of the southern part of the site we are trying to remove from the project, which is being completed, demolition and remediated, so there's no constraints on that from a physical perspective. So, we'd like to have that removed from the project definition to allow potential development activities to occur.

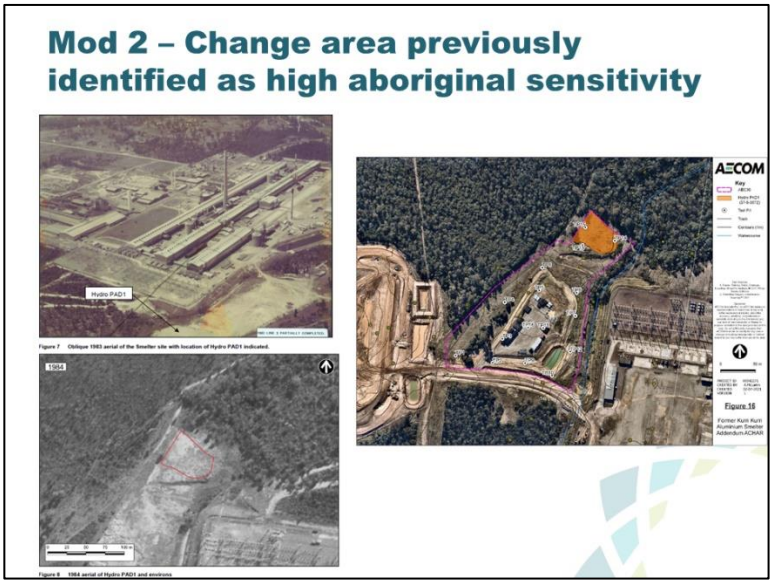
Another part of the site, which you're probably now familiar with, is the switch yard location. So that's actually subject to an independent contract piece of works for the demolition and remediation for the future site owner. So that work is independent, that work is happening independently of our remediation activities. And once completed that will also form the site for the Hunter Power Project. And the other part that I mentioned is removing aspects of the footprint that are not necessary for clearing, so you can see that the red line here sits within the blue line and there are parts of the area in between which we didn't need to clear. And I can demonstrate to you by showing you the next slide. So, if you pay attention to that aerial underneath the slides so that's a bit older, prior to us doing the veg clearing in that area. And when I move that forward…

There you go, now you can see that the cell area is neatly within that red line. So, we don't need to and have not cleared areas between the red line and blue line outside of that. So that means we're having less of an impact on some of the native veg around the cell.

And further to that – apologise for my title being in the wrong orientation - so, these were the areas that were reassessed for having an actual impact. So, we had to go back and re-evaluate the areas that we were impacting on, the biodiversity, and you can see this is inside what was on the previous slide, the red dashed

lines, the red line here is the same as the red dashed line there, and this shows there are still small impacts on the green, which is the Kurri Sand Swamp Woodland ecosystem, and the orange which is Spotted Gum Ironbark ecosystem. And associated with that are some specific species.

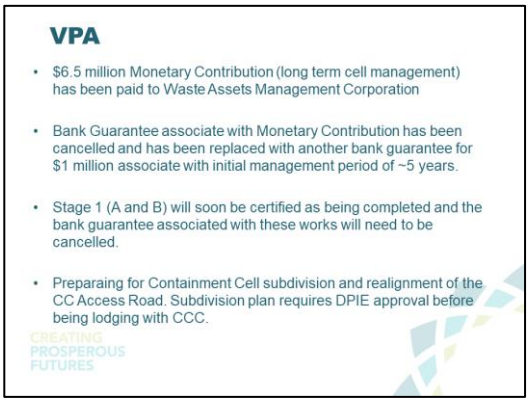
RB: What you can see there is not only… this is consistent with the other biodiversity activities that have been going on, we look for both the ecosystems but there are specific threatened species that are evaluated. What this shows is that some of the footprint that was identified as potential Regent Honeyeater habitat – that's associated with the Spotted Gum Ironbark ecosystem, but there are some locations on site that have been identified for potential habitat for Green-thighed frogs or Southern Myotis which is a microbat, a small bat. They're associated with some water bodies around the place. So that's also part of the modification.



And the other part I mentioned was about the pad that was identified, so on the right-hand side here you will see this area identified in orange was an area previously identified as having potential high Aboriginal sensitivity. Like we said on investigation, and in these photos, you can see from the early eighties this material was suspected to be fill in those locations. So, we went out and just confirmed that with test pitting and we actually identified some fill. In fact, there is one section there with fill that has got high level of contaminants that will likely need that that material will go into the cell. Those contaminants, I think, were chrome and copper, some metals essentially. Not really sure of the source, but they're low levels slightly exceeding the site criteria so it's likely we are going to have some of that material going into the cell. So the process we have needed to go through

to confirm that was have the archaeologist do an independent assessment of our thoughts and then they needed to consult with the range of Registered Aboriginal Parties to ensure they didn't have any other concerns with removing that footprint, that process has been undertaken, and those Registered Aboriginal Parties have been confirmed that they don't have any concerns around the removal of that as formerly an area of potential high sensitivity. So, nothing we consider to be controversial.

So the next thing we have been working on with the Department of Planning is some of the obligations under the VPA. You will recall that we had a requirement in the VPA to pay a monetary contribution which was associated with the long-term management of the cell. That 6.5 million dollars has now been paid to the Waste Assets Management Corporation. Associated with that monetary contribution was up until the point that which it was paid, we had to pay a Bank Guarantee for that amount which was in place and held by the Department of Planning. Now that that money has been paid that bank guarantee has been cancelled and in accordance with the VPA it has been replaced by another Bank Guarantee to the value of one million dollars, which is now associated with the period of Hydro management following the cell completion. So until the cell is transferred, we're required to have a Bank Guarantee for the estimated cost associated with managing the cell in that period. Well, that's now in place.

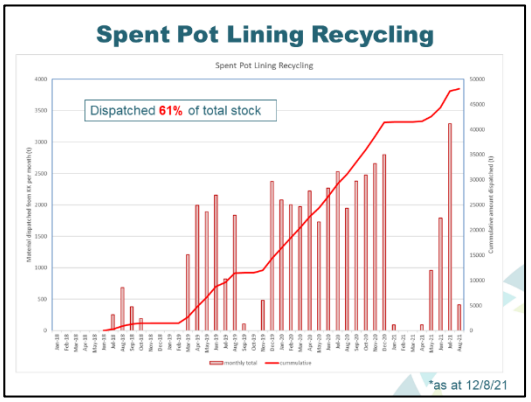


The next Bank Guarantee that we have is the series of Bank Guarantees associated with the different project stages, and the first stage of the project is soon to be completed. So that is the construction of the cell base, it's all of the project infrastructure, like the haul road, the sediment basins and the last thing that needs to be done to complete that first stage of works is to actually line those leachate basins. Once that's done, that will then be certified as being completed, by Ramboll as our validation consultant and by SMEC as the independent engineer, and once that's been certified as completed there the first of those staging Bank Guarantees will also be cancelled.

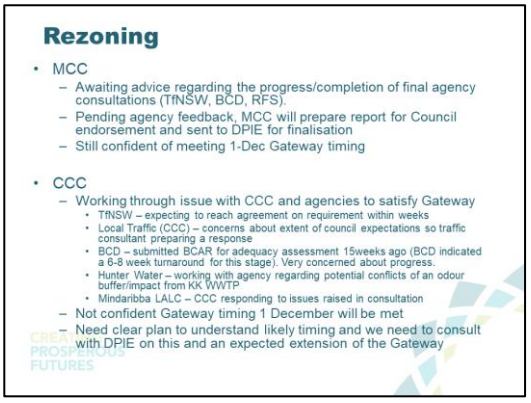
In parallel to that we've been preparing the containment cell subdivision because that needs to go to get departmental approval, before we lodge that with Cessnock Council and there is also another small thing, we need to do is get approval from the Minister to realign the access road that's required to be built prior to the cell transfer. You may recall we needed to have a connection point between the nearest public road and the containment cell lot, which is part of that subdivision, and we have a preliminary alignment for that road. We were a bit concerned

about committing to that because we knew that when development works were to progress it was likely to need to be moved. That's come to pass, and the future owners have asked us to realign that to better suit their subdivision plan and layout for the development of the site in the future. Again, not something we expect to be controversial, something we got to do.

Spent Pot Lining - we've been packing spent pot lining off site as we have done for a couple of years now. We are up to 61 per cent of the total, still working quite well in fact it's been, well, besides the fact we want it off site and progressed for recycling, it's also giving us the ability to use some of the empty sheds to manage different materials for the remediation so, Andrew showed some photos there of the gypsum being stored in a couple of sheds, we are also likely to store some other materials in sheds and it's a good opportunity for us to use that.



Just a bit of a quick update on the rezoning side of things. Probably something that has become reasonably clear, and I welcome Andrew and Ian's commentary after I walk through this, but it's now reasonably evident that Maitland and Cessnock are probably working on slightly different timeframes, due to the relative level of complexity and issues associated with each of those. So, at the moment, with regards to Maitland, we are awaiting advice regarding the progress and completion of the final agency consultations. So, Maitland are out with Transport for NSW, BCD – biodiversity people, and RFS. Once that agency consultation has been completed and were assuming without any issues for us to progress that, Council will prepare a report for Council endorsement and be sending that to the Department for finalisation. At the moment we are still confident we will make the 1 December gateway timing for Maitland Council which will be fantastic. And I do know that McCloy-Stevens are starting to prepare their first DA for the subdivision and the development, so they've been starting to work with Council on getting that ready. So, once the land is rezoned their getting stuck into the activities for the development of that particular part of the site.



With regards to Cessnock, there are a number of issues we are continuing to work with Council and the agencies to satisfy the gateway conditions. With regards to Transport for NSW, we're expecting to have an agreement in place with them in the next few weeks in about requirements from the developer with regards to infrastructure works and the like, associated with the development of the site. There are also some local traffic requirements that Council require. At the moment we're having some engagement with Council, we are a bit concerned about the extent of some of

those requirements, so we are preparing some advice from our traffic consultants to have some futher discussion with Council on those matters. On the biodiversity biocert process, at the moment this is probably my biggest concern. So, we submitted our BCAR, our biodiversity certification assessment report for adequacy assessment 15 weeks ago. Initially BCD indicated a six to eight week turnaround on this stage and clearly that's extremely concerning to us. Whilst indicating to us that they are very resource poor at the moment, regardless of that, that is concerning to us about the lack of ability of the agency to turn that around. And this is only just the first stage of the process as well, so…

MU: But they did get your email?

RB: Yes, well, it's challenging in that regard. And we have had very limited indications from BCD about the likely type of response they have and there will be issues they will likely need to address. So, let's watch this space.

The two other agencies that Council and ourselves will have to work with, one is Hunter Water, so at the moment we are collectively working with that agency regarding potential conflicts of an odour buffer and the impacts from a wastewater treatment plant. So that's something they have identified as a concern and we are going to work with them to address those concerns and that's really limited potential rezoning of areas in the McLeod - Dawes Avenue type area, just across the other side of the Hunter Expressway from the wastewater treatment plant.

And the last one is the Mindaribba Land Council raised some issues with Council and Council are responding to those issues. The net total of all those things is that we are not confident that we will be able to meet the 1 December gateway timing and as a result it's likely that we'll need to have the blessing of the Department to extend that gateway. At the moment we are just not sure what is necessary in terms of a plan on the timing for us and the request, and what that would look like going forward. I welcome Andrew and Ian if you have anything further to add to those.

MU: They are both now off mute. Start with Maitland?

AN: I'll start. I agree, I think we're in a much more straightforward position, because we are a less constrained and smaller land holding than Cessnock, so we do have that in our favour. Only thing I wanted to note, really, was that Mindaribba were also a required consultation agency as part of the gateway. So, we'll also await comment from them. But that is what it is. We're definitely

still working to get it finalised within the time frame because, as I said, we've got that more straightforward area of land to deal with and we're having ongoing discussions with McCloy-Stevens in regards to finalising developments like the Development Control Plan and things like that. So, things are progressing at our end.

MU: Great, thanks for that Andrew. Ian?

IR: Yeah I think Richard really hit the nail on the head with those items. I thing I would really add is the Rural Fire Service – we were provided with a Strategic Bush Fire Report via the proponent a few weeks ago, and that's now with Rural Fire Service for review and we're awaiting comment from them, but apart from that, I think Richard is exactly right, they are pretty much the outstanding issues, and if we can resolve them, we shouldn't have too much of a problem with agency consultation when we get to that stage that Maitland is at.

RB: Thanks Ian.

MU: Thank you.

RB: I have one more slide, which is a picture, regarding a divestment situation. I think I mentioned with our Mod 2 application, McCloy-Stevens are now undertaking the demolition and remediation of the switch yard. So that's a recent aerial from Nearmap, I think it's from the 6th of August, I think you can see those demolition works are well advanced and I think their program of works for the full demo works and remediation finishes, I'm going to say, late September, early October or there abouts. It's not a very complicated demo. So, a lot of the structures have hit the ground already and they've been moving scrap off site. Once that's done, they also have a process for an auditor sign off. And that auditor sign off will combine with our auditor sign off and remediation on other parts of the site and that will then allow for the progression of the Hunter Power Project. And I think that's me. So back to you, Andrew.

MU: Andrew is going to work his magic with a video, is that right Andrew?

AW: Yes, that's right

MU: So just hold your questions until we get that going

AW: There was just one more slide. I guess, we were talking about a site visit for October. I guess we'll just have to play it by ear because we're not sure what's happening with the covid lock down. If we miss October, then maybe December is an option.

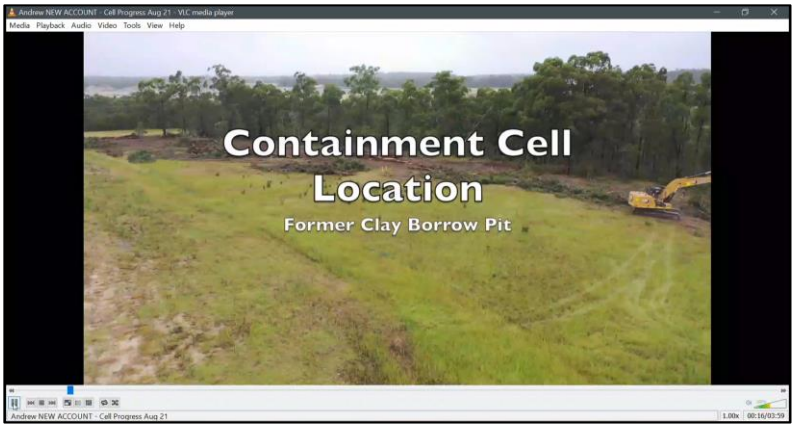
MU: While you much around with the video, I might just ask for questions, because someone might want to leave or something. Are there any questions of Andrew or Richard, based on those slides that have just come through on demolition and remediation stuff?

Just take yourself off mute if you have any questions. Or anything from the community, that the community might be interested in knowing about? Or anything you have heard from the community while you haven't been down the pub, you haven't been down the shops, you haven't been anywhere, you haven't been engaging with anybody.

OK, alright, there's probably the shortest question time were ever going to have hopefully. Thank you for that, Andrew. If any questions do pop up, just raise your hand in the chat there, that will be a good reminder, but Andrew is now going to share a different screen and share a video he has got. And push the little button that says "sound".

AW: Just quickly, this is the time lapse I was talking about, this is the last 150 shots from today. Gives you an idea, that's the camera on the pole.

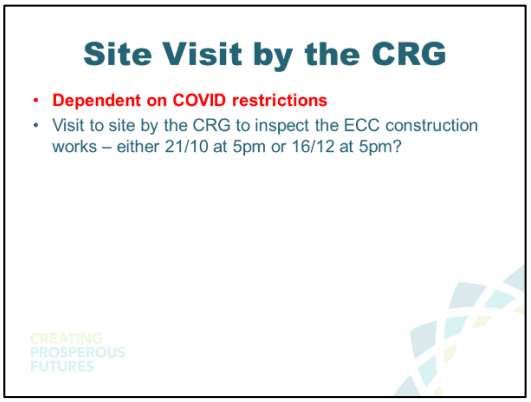
[Plays video]



MU: Very good, round of applause all over.

Would you please pass on our thanks to Andrew for that work that would be great thank you.

I'll just mention that Councillor Doherty has joined us, hello Rod, how are you? I put you on mute a little earlier mate, so just need to unmute yourself if you wish to speak. Alright, so are there any other questions that might have come up in the course of the



video? In the last few minutes, or anything anyone would like to go through?

TT: Can I just ask – what is the total cost of the containment cell from start to finish?

AW: It's about 30 million dollars. That's the amount we have put aside, with those bank guarantees with the state government, which covers not only Daracon's cost, but the gypsum and all the consultants that we are using.

MU: Anything else?

Well, the next meeting is planned for Thursday the 21st of October. So, third week in a month as per usual. We will have to look and see how the COVID situation is before we go out on site. But if all is well and everyone's vaccinated, and COVID has gone away, or at least subdued to a nice enough extent, then I look forward to seeing you on site for a site visit followed by a meeting on that day., the 21st. It will be nice and warm, lots of sunshine. If we meet at 5 o'clock then there will be plenty of time before it gets dark. It will be great. I really hope we can achieve that, and if not, we'll hold off till the next meeting, which will be the December meeting as Andrew said. But either way, we will catch you on the 21st of October at the same time.

Thank you all for your attendance. We'll get the minutes out in due course. Thank you.

6 Meeting close

Meeting closed: 7:14pm

Date of following meeting: 21/10/2021