

MINUTES OF MEETING

Cowal Gold Operation Community Environmental Monitoring and Consultative Committee (CEMCC)

Date: Wednesday, 30 August 2017
Time: 9.00 am – Forbes Shire Council
Minutes taken by: Bronwyn Flynn/Anne Bolton

Attendees:

Independent Chair: Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)
 Evolution: Anne Bolton (AB), Bronwyn Flynn
 Community Members: Angus Stitt (AS), Lucy Buttenshaw (LB)
 Independent Scientist: Max Finlayson (MF)
 Forbes Shire Council: Graeme Miller (GM) Chris Roylance (CR)
 Invited guests: Professor Peter Gell (PG), Lisa Andrews (LA)

Apologies: Bruce Dent (BD) Kate Dean (KD), Tony Lord (TL), John Ridley (JR) Jamie Coad (JC), Kerry Mudge (KM) & Ally Coe (AC)

ITEM	ACTION
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Independent Chair, Margaret MacDonald-Hill opened the meeting at 9:10 am.</p>	
<p>2. Declaration of Interest</p> <p>Margaret MacDonald-Hill advised there were no changes to previous declarations by CEMCC members, nor to hers; Independent Chair of the CEMCC, appointed by the Director General of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, a member of the Mine Subsidence Board and she receives payment via a Trust established by the Bland Shire Council for her work as Chair of the CEMCC.</p>	
<p>3. Peter Gell presentation</p> <p>Professor Gell shared his observations of the birdlife at Lake Cowal for almost 30 years, the longest and continuous survey conducted in Australia like this, funded by Cowal, commenced in 1989 by North Limited</p> <p>Regional refuge when everywhere else is drying up, however is highly dependent on regional effects such as drought or flood. Flooding in the region has the effect of drawing some birds away from the Lake. There is a complex array of drivers that determines the bird populations utilizing the Lake (other than just water level). When the lake is at it's deepest, it tends to have the lowest diversity of species.</p> <p>Migrant species visit Lake Cowal every year when water is present.</p> <p>Breeding is affected by water levels – on falling water levels, birds tend to leave their nests. There can be between 1-3 breeding events during a good season.</p> <p>Overall, monitoring to date has indicated the mine is not impacting on the birds at Lake</p>	

<p>Cowal.</p> <p>Discussion by members on CR suggestion that information obtained in surveys could be used for beneficial tourism to the region with councils support.</p>	
<p>4. Confirmation of Previous Minutes</p> <p>Moved by Chris Roylance, seconded by Angus Stitt.</p>	
<p>5. Business Arising from previous Minutes</p> <p>BF advised Boongarry Lane is now closed to Environmental team conducting monitoring, Lows Road is to be used.</p> <p>CR & GM advised Forbes Council had carried out roadworks to improve condition of Boongarry Lane.</p> <p>AB advised new name tag obtained for KD.</p> <p>AB advised signage now displayed at ECCC.</p>	
<p>6. Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included on the agenda - no further discussion. • MMH noted 3 additional items included in presentation and date for any comments on RMP. BF gave a brief outline on RMP to CEMCC. CEMCC members had no comment to make on the revised RMP. 	
<p>7. Reports</p> <p>(CR requested copy of attachment referred to in previous round of CPP)</p>	AB
<p>8. General Business</p> <p>MMH sought CEMCC permission to move final meeting for 2017 to Cowal Mine site. It was agreed that a group induction would be arranged with a possible site tour after meeting.</p> <p>BF advised that KM was leaving Cowal to take up a position in the Illawarra Region.</p>	BF
<p>9. Meeting Closed – 10:53 am</p>	
<p>10. Next Meeting</p> <p>November 29 at Cowal Gold Operations.</p>	