

MINUTES

Sunrise Energy Metals Community Consultative Committee



sunrise
energy metals

	Community Consultative Committee	Meeting Date: Commenced:	24 June 2024 2:36pm
Independent Chairperson:	David Ross (DR)		
Member Attendees: (In person)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor Ken Keith – Parkes Shire Council representative (KK)• Cr Bill Jayet – Parkes Shire Council representative (BJ)• Narelle Sunderland – Community representative (NS)• Des Ward – Community Representative (DW)• Sam Riggall – Sunrise Energy Metals Chief Executive Officer (SR)• Mike Wood – Sunrise Regional Manager (MW)• Bronwyn Flynn – Sunrise Environment, Approvals and Community Lead (BF)		
Member Attendees: (Online)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geoff Rice – Parkes Chamber of Commerce (GR)		
Invited Guests:	Nil		
Observers	Nil		
Apologies	Cr Steve Karaitiana, Cr Denis Brady, Cr Paul Phillips, Cr Megan Mortimer, Helen Quade, Ally Coe, Vicki Swadling, Nicole Smith		
Venue:	Council Chambers, Lachlan Shire Council Offices		
Minute takers:	Bronwyn Flynn		
Close:	3:45 pm		

1. Welcome & Introductions

New Independent Chairperson, David Ross welcomed all members to the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meeting and introduced himself. DR stated his role is to ensure every member leaves feeling they have had their chance to have their say.

DR declared that he is an Independent Chairperson and is being paid to chair the committee, appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). DR asked the committee if anyone had any declarations to make.

2. Apologies

- Cr Steve Karaitiana, Forbes Shire Council
- Cr Denis Brady, Condobolin Chamber of Commerce
- Cr Paul Phillips, Lachlan Shire Council
- Cr Megan Mortimer, Lachlan Shire Council
- Helen Quade, Trundle CCC representative
- Ali Coe, Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation
- Vicki Swadling, Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation
- Nicole Smith, Wiradjuri Condobolin Corporation

3. Business Arising from previous minutes

DR asked for confirmation the minutes from the June 2023 meeting were true and correct. Members present confirmed they were an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were finalised and a copy emailed to members 30/06/2023.

Action Items:

1. Provide the PowerPoint presentation to Lisa for distribution to the CCC members.

Complete - the CCC presentation was emailed to CCC members on 23/06/2023 and 30/06/2023.

4. Correspondence Report

DR requested that the correspondence section henceforth concentrate on detailing key correspondence between Sunrise Energy Metals (SEM) and relevant local, state or federal government.

SR and BF responded, noting that there had not been any such correspondence of late to report on.

5. Sunrise Project Update - Presentation

Sunrise Regional Update – Mike Wood & Bronwyn Flynn

MW & BF provided the CCC with an update on the activities undertaken in the region since the June 2023 meeting:

- Completion of water bore drilling and installation of monitoring wells
 - Construction of the remaining approved groundwater bores was completed in June 2023. Three production bores were installed (one additional location did not intersect the aquifer). Two production bores are located on private land, with the other located on Crown Land
 - Five monitoring wells were also installed at three different locations (all on private land). All sites were rehabilitated following installation
 - One old 1999 test bore located near the set of three government monitoring bores was decommissioned by the drillers while they were onsite
- Pump Testing
 - Pump testing of the new production bores was required as a condition of the Water Supply Works Approval, with each bore pumped continuously for 72 hours
 - Water levels were monitored continuously throughout this duration. Recovery water levels were also monitored for 48 hours following completion of each pump test
 - Pump test results were submitted to the Department for assessment by their hydrogeologists
- Mineral Exploration
 - Reverse circulation (RC) drilling programs completed at the Boona Gap (12 holes) and Meloola (8 holes) tenements in H1 2024. 101 auger holes were also drilled to a depth of approximately 15m at the Boona Gap tenement
 - Limestone exploration is planned to continue into the 2025 financial year
 - The Resources Regulator completed a desktop compliance audit of the Boona Gap tenement against the Exploration codes of practice for Community Consultation, Environmental management and Rehabilitation with no non-compliances identified

Q & A relating to this update

DW asked: Can we get the pump testing data?

A discussion then followed about the extent of the data and what it provided. DR (responding to DW) observed that the real benefit to interested community members will be seen once mine operations commence. At that point, the baseline data can be compared with the data obtained post-commencement, showing the community just what impact operations may be having.

Community Update – Bronwyn Flynn

BF provided the CCC with an update on community relations activities since the June 2023 meeting. These included SEM:

- preparing to support the 2024 local agricultural shows in Tullamore, Trundle, Bedgerabong, Parkes, Condobolin and Forbes
- attending the NSW Minerals Council careers night in Orange on 22nd May and two local supplier workshops to upskill local businesses regarding procurement processes for large projects.

BF noted that the Parkes and Condobolin shopfronts are open on the first and third Tuesday (Condobolin) and Thursday (Parkes) of the month. Finally, no community complaints have been received so far this year. A complaints register is published on the SEM website.

Q & A relating to this update

BJ asked: What schools are invited to the Orange event? Is Parkes invited?

MW replied: All secondary schools from across the Central West are invited including Parkes, Forbes and Condobolin.

A discussion then followed about the possibility of holding a future Minerals Council event in Parkes.

MW stated he is happy to provide feedback directly to the Minerals Council as a result of this discussion.

Environmental Management Update – Bronwyn Flynn

- Environmental monitoring at the Sunrise Project is continuing in line with the Project Development Consent and Environmental Protection Licence, including:
 - Dust (depositional and particulate matter monitoring [PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}])
 - Surface water (only two sampling events since our last meeting)
 - Groundwater monitoring (six monthly onsite and borefield monitoring)
 - Meteorological monitoring continuing at the weather station
- Property management work is ongoing and includes installation of new boundary fencing along Wilmatha Road and Fifield Road, weed spraying

Q & A relating to this update

DR asked: Do the committee members understand what is meant by PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}?

BF explained: The PM stands for particulate matter which is the fine fraction of dust in the air. So PM₁₀ is the fraction that is less than 10 micrometers in size, and PM_{2.5} is the fraction less than 2.5 micrometres.

Environmental Approvals Update – Bronwyn Flynn & Mike Wood

- SEM has completed annual project reporting to the Government, including the Annual Return to the NSW EPA and the 2023 Annual Review to the DPHI. The 2023 Annual Review is now up on our website.
- 132kV Electrical Transmission Line (ETL):
 - SEM has been progressing the connection agreement with the Network Service Providers.
 - The first 40km of the ETL will replace the existing 66kV supply line to Trundle with a dual 132/66kV line.

- Landholder discussions are continuing.
- Water Pipeline Approvals:
 - The s138 Roads Act approval and associated lease agreement with the Councils was extended until March 2027.
 - The Crown Lands licence and easement application is progressing.
- Oversize Transport Route:
 - A NSW Critical Minerals and High-Tech Activation Fund grant is facilitating the ability to undertake design and approvals activities to de-risk the Oversize Transport Route.
 - GHD engaged to undertake civil and electrical design work for route modifications, and develop the approvals plan for the construction phase of the Oversize Transport Route. Approvals work will be progressed during the 2025 financial year.

Q & A relating to this update

KK asked: Will the new powerline pick up any renewables projects?

MW replied: The powerline is planned to be connected to the new substation at the future Quorn Park solar farm.

BJ asked: Has there been any opposition to the powerline route?

MW replied: We have engaged external consultants to assist in the consultation with landowners, so that has assisted the process of having agreements signed for the corridor.

DW asked: Will any bridges need to be replaced? Like the one at Wilcannia?

MW responded: Not necessarily replaced, but likely will need to be strengthened at least.

SR expected that SEM would be expected to pay for the cost of these works.

Finance Update – Sam Riggall

Nickel and cobalt prices have dropped significantly over the past 12 months and it's probably the most depressed market in about 30 years. A meaningful portion of the Australian nickel industry has already closed or is in care and maintenance.

Driving this is the addition of significant new mine and processing capacity by China in Indonesia. There is a large surplus of nickel and cobalt from these mines, and their environmental impact is significant.

There are challenges SEM face in financing a large, capital-intensive project in an industry where China is flooding the market with metal. Most western nickel development projects are stalled.

Governments around the world recognize the risks associated with such high supply concentration from China. In the US, the Inflation Reduction Act is the major policy response intended to address these risks, but its implementation is slow. Similarly, the EU has its own critical minerals framework. It's likely that, over time, these industrial policies will begin to have an impact, and projects like Sunrise will benefit from policy support.

In the meantime, SEM continue to look at other opportunities, such as stand-alone development, and exploration.

Q & A relating to this update

KK asked: The new Albanese Government announced batteries would come from Indonesia?

SR replied: Indonesia wanted our lithium to complement their nickel and cobalt processing capacity. Indonesia is not a US free trade agreement country, so for now at least the mining and processing operations in Indonesia will not attract US subsidies.

BJ asked: Where does the Sunrise Project stand in the eyes of the State and Federal Governments?

SR replied: Sunrise is on the Federal Government radar with Major Project Status. We could do more work with the State Government, however we are in regular contact with the Mining, Exploration and Geoscience team.

6. General Business

BJ mentioned: I have never been to site, however I understand I'm a relatively new member to this committee. Would there possibly be an opportunity to visit the site at some time in the future?

MW replied: We'll look at arranging a visit for the CCC members. Some would have already been to site, however with a few new members it's a good idea to organise another site visit. We'll be in touch.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for the last week of June 2025. Time and location to be confirmed closer to the date.

Meeting was closed at 3:45pm.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM	ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1	Provide the PowerPoint presentation to David for distribution to the CCC members.	BF