

MINUTES

ENGAGING AND COMMUNICATING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

**Long Flat
13 August 2014**

PRESENT:

Deputy Mayor Adam Roberts
Councillor Robert Turner
Councillor Justin Levido
Councillor Geoffrey Hawkins
Councillor Mike Cusato

Craig Swift-McNair (Acting General Manager)
Rebecca Olsen (Acting Director Commercial Services & Industry Engagement)
Jeffery Sharp (Director of Infrastructure & Asset Management)
Jaclyne Fisher (Acting Director of Community & Organisational Development)
Matt Rogers (Director of Development & Environment)

11 community members

APOLOGIES:

Mayor Peter Besseling
Councillor Sharon Griffiths
Councillor Lisa Intemann
Councillor Trevor Sargeant

The Meeting commenced at 6:05pm

The Deputy Mayor welcomed those in attendance and introduced the Councillors and Council staff members present.

The Deputy Mayor also delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

Applicant	Donna Lloyd
Question 1:	Aside from obvious State and Local Government functions concerning mining applications, what role has Port Macquarie-Hastings Council taken in the Mining Exploration Licence Application by Scorpio Resources (aka Anchor Resources) in the Hastings Valley (ELA5012) - referred to in Anchor Resources online publications as the "Birdwood Project" which covers almost 300 km2 within the Hastings Valley?
Final Comments for Distribution as Approved by GM	PMHC has no role in the granting of mining exploration licences. This process is managed entirely by the NSW Government.
Meeting Notes/ Action	The Director Development & Environment spoke to the response above. Please see further response & comments under Question 3.

Applicant	Donna Lloyd
Question 2:	<p>As an affected resident and community member, I am seeking a Council response to how it will minimise the following problems should the Exploration Licence by Scorpio Resources (aka Anchor Resources) be granted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The impact of increased vehicle movements (including heavy vehicles) on and around Long Flat and the surrounding communities. How does Council propose to manage this on local roads? • The impact of these movements on roads themselves. Has Council sought contributions from the company towards the upkeep of our local roads? • The social impact of the hours of operation on the local community, arising from the Exploration Licence and possible mine. As a small rural community, our quality of life is paramount. Will vehicles be coming and going through the town at all times during the day and night? • The potential for increased noise and dust that these vehicles and associated mining operations may pose to the community. What measures will be in place to minimise the threat of noise and dust? • The impact that increased vehicular traffic, noise and dust may have on local school children at school and travelling on buses along these routes. What will Council do to protect our youngest members of the community in their homes, schools and on the roads?
Comments	<p>Exploration licences generally do not result in significant impacts such as traffic, air quality and noise. More significant impacts could be expected if the exploration leads to an application for a mine or quarry. Should such an application eventuate, a detailed assessment of impact will need to be undertaken and appropriate mitigation measured put in place.</p>
Meeting Notes/Action	<p>The Director Development & Environment spoke to the response above.</p> <p>Please see further response & comments under Question 3.</p>

Applicant	Donna Lloyd
Question 3:	<p>Will Port Macquarie-Hastings Council be seeking to REGULARLY engage wit the Scorpio Resources (aka Anchor Resources) (via allocating a local Councillor or representative) during the negotiation process in their Mining Exploration Licence Application? The provision of regular updates on the application process is a desired outcome for members of the Long Flat and surrounding areas (including Bellangry, Rollands Plains and Pappinbarra) and it is important that the local Council takes an active role to support and protect its constituents. The formation of a Sub-Group that can also REGULARLY report back to the community is recommended.</p>
Comments	<p>PMHC is unlikely to have an opportunity to engage in the process associated with a decision on a mining exploration licence. This process is dealt wholly by the state government. Notwithstanding this, it is likely that there is little to engage upon as part of the exploration process and that meaningful engagement would only be possible a part of any proposal that may eventuate as a result of exploration.</p> <p>Information is attached in relation to the process of exploration, as well as the current licence and the pending licence application held by Scorpio Resources.</p>
Meeting Notes/Action	<p>The Director Development & Environment spoke to the response above.</p> <p>The community is very concerned that Council cannot play a role in this exploration phase of a mining licence, noting that Council has no legal / statutory role to play in this process. The key concern is what happens if a licence is granted - then what about impacts on the water supply to the region via the Hastings River etc. There is also an impact likely on local roads and other public infrastructure. If a licence was granted, then Council would be involved through the approval of Development Assessments (DA's) etc.</p> <p>The community has requested that Council write to the relevant Minister / Department stating the various concerns etc as detailed in Question 2 above. This letter is to be copied to both local State members, plus copies are to be provided to the community who Council encourage to also write to the relevant Minister and local members.</p> <p>There is a web site as part of the NSW Department of Trade & Investment called MinView that allows people to search for current and historical exploration information in NSW. The web site is listed below.</p>

Meeting Notes/Action (continued)	<p>http://minview.minerals.nsw.gov.au/mv2web/mv2</p> <p>The community representatives present asked how they could communicate with other local communities within the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area that could be impacted by mining into the future.</p> <p>Councillor Turner suggested they form some form of advocacy group and set up a Facebook page as one way of communicating with other communities.</p>
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Applicant	Donna Lloyd
Question 4:	Given our remoteness to existing waste stations in this Council area, will we be able to use our "Tip Tickets" at the monthly Ellenborough Reserve rubbish drop-off? For many residents in rural communities such as Long Flat and its surrounds, there are no weekly/fortnightly rubbish collection services. The monthly facility at Ellenborough Reserve provides an essential rubbish and recycling facility for our residents. Due to the disadvantages many local residents face because of our distance from existing waste stations or non-existence of rubbish collection, the option to use Tip Tickets at Ellenborough Reserve is hereby requested.
Comments	Yes - tip tickets can be used at rural rubbish drop-off locations.
Meeting Notes/Action	<p>The Director Development & Environment spoke to the response above.</p> <p>Several other questions were asked in relation to waste as follows:</p> <p>Does a commercial operator get free tip tickets? Response: No</p> <p>Is Council charging ratepayers additional waste charges due to the free tip tickets? Response: No, as the domestic waste fee includes the 2 x free tip tickets.</p>

ADDITIONAL MATTERS / QUESTIONS RAISED FROM THE FLOOR:

1. The Long Flat Community Hall

The Hall has not received the bins.

Meeting Notes/Action	The Director of Development & Environment will look into this situation and provide a response.
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2. Long Flat Sewerage System

When will the Long Flat sewerage system be finalised and operational?

Meeting Notes/Action	<p>The Director Infrastructure & Asset Management responded stating that Council had recently completed the Herons Creek and Beechwood schemes and for Long Flat, a survey is currently being undertaken of the existing collection systems. The next step is for geotechnical and environmental factors to be investigated. The timetable at the moment is that construction should commence in or around June 2015, with completion of the project being around July / August 2016.</p> <p>Councillor Levido also spoke to this point and to stress that Councillors were very focussed on having the small village sewer scheme completed in this term of Council and that a Steering Group has been established to oversee this particular project.</p>
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3. Water Quality

How often is the water quality checked?

Meeting Notes/Action	The Director Infrastructure & Asset Management responded stating that water quality checks are done on a regular basis with checks of turbidity and the like included in those checks.
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4. ECWOC Questions & Answers

Will these questions and answers be available to the community?

Meeting Notes/Action	The Minutes of this meeting will be available on Council's web site and Council can also send copies to people we have email contact details for.
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5. TV Reception

Some years ago, Council installed a TV tower, but it was not digital capable so locals get very few television stations now. What is Council going to do about this?

Meeting Notes/Action	<p>The General Manager responded stating that this was a Federal Government funded scheme going back many years that Council was involved with. Council plays no role in communications as this is now controlled Federally.</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor recommended that the community lobby the Federal Member for Lyne for improved access etc.</p>
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6. Waste Services / Road Maintenance

Why does the waste service stop at certain points along certain roads and why does road maintenance stop at certain points along the road? The road in question is Pine Scrub Road, Kindee.

Meeting Notes/Action	<p>The Director Development & Environment and the Director Infrastructure & Asset Management will look into these specific circumstances and will provide a further response once known.</p>
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7. Waste Service - Kindee

Could there be a lockable skip bin located near the Kindee Bridge that locals could have access to?

Meeting Notes/Action	<p>The Director Development & Environment will look into this issue further and then provide a more detailed response.</p>
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8. Henry Street, Long Flat - Potholes

Henry Street, Long Flat is full of potholes and getting worse - when will this be repaired?

Meeting Notes/Action	<p>The Director Infrastructure & Asset Management will look into this issue and have someone inspect the road.</p>
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9. Ellenborough Cemetery

Is Ellenborough Cemetery open or is it closed for new plots etc?

Meeting Notes/Action	The Acting Director Commercial Services & Industry Engagement will confirm the status of the cemetery, noting that Council has been working on expanding the Wauchope Cemetery to cater for future requirements.
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10. World's Biggest Garage Sale

Is Council going to be involved with this year's World's Biggest Garage Sale? If so, can we ensure that maps of the small villages involved are included this time as last year it was only the major centres that were included on the maps.

Meeting Notes/Action	The Director of Development & Environment responded that Council is likely to be involved again with this but would confirm and that if Council is to be involved again, we will address the map issue.
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11. Grass Cutting

Grass cutting along roadways other than the Oxley Highway.

Meeting Notes/Action	The Director Infrastructure & Asset Management requested that if there were specific parts of the local area that required grass cutting to let Council know and we would have them inspected for inclusion on the list of works for some point into the future.
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The Meeting closed at 7.10pm