

Meeting Minutes – Northparkes Community Consultative Committee Meeting

Date & Time	Monday 4 March 2024 - 4 pm	
Venue	Parkes Shire Chambers	
Attendees	David Johnson	Chair
	Rob Cunningham	Northparkes Operations (NPO) General Manager
	Stacey Kelly	NPO People, Safety and Environment Manager
	Chris Higgins	NPO Environment and Farms Superintendent
	Brooke Plunkett	NPO Communications and Engagement Superintendent
	Chloe Allan	NPO Community and External Relations Advisor
	Neil Westcott	Parkes Shire Council Mayor
	Brian Mattiske	Forbes Shire Councillor
	Marg Applebee	Community Member/Central West Lachlan Landcare
Apologies	Sandra Parker, Scott Bickett, Steve Karatiarna, Bill Jayet, Andrew Rice, Ken Keith, Glenn Wilson, Steve Loane, Geoff Rice, Jacob Cass and Phil Moss	

Time	Agenda items	Responsible
4:00pm	Acknowledgement of Country	David Johnson
4:02pm	Welcome and apologies	David Johnson
4:05pm	Declarations of precautionary and other interests	David Johnson
4:10pm	Correspondence	David Johnson



4:15pm	Business arising from previous minutes	David Johnson
4:20pm	Northparkes business update Northparkes leadership updates, Evolution Mining ownership, Operations update, Environmental and approvals updates, Community update	Rob Cunningham Stacey Kelly Chris Higgins Brooke Plunkett
5:00pm	Terms of reference update	David Johnson
5:20pm	General business	David Johnson
5:30pm	Close	David Johnson

Minutes

1. Acknowledgement of Country

2. Welcome and apologies

DJ welcomed Neil Westcott (Mayor, Parkes SC) and Rob Cunningham (NPO Gen. Manager)

3. Declarations of precautionary and other interests

No comments

4. Correspondence

David has had no correspondence with the department or other external bodies, only email contact with NPO and CCC members

5. Business arising from previous minutes

Previous minutes – everyone has a copy; no action items were listed. No comments or actions are required.

Preliminaries:

- Rob Cunningham: What is the frequency of CCC meetings? David: 6 monthly but it has been different in the past, David asked if there are any suggestions to change this? Chris: Let us see how we go over the next 6 months.
 - Rob: I think we will be able to provide a good update in 6 months.
- Neil: what is the role and scope of the CCC?
 David: Any matters that relate to the mine's impact or interactions with the community. We have advertised in the past to the community for members; who can be anyone living close to the mine or live in town and involved in the community. There is a category of stakeholder members who represent a group or association for example. David/Brooke: we can ask PHLALC if they would like to be a part of the CCC.



Chris: they have not been on previously because they have separate meetings with Northparkes (WEC).

6. Northparkes business update

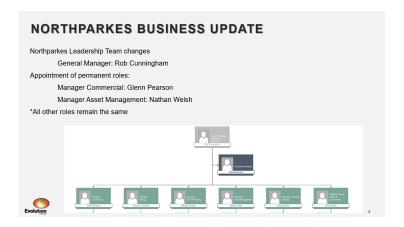
Rob Cunningham – presented Northparkes Operations' business update slides:



- Budget approved through to June, then we will move to a financial year basis as per Evolution's operations elsewhere (July 2024 to June 2025).
- Weekly integration meetings are being held to progress the transition to ownership by Evolution, with a lot of planning and collaboration.
- General feel from site is positive and that Evolution is a good fit for Northparkes. Employees are
 enjoying the open communications.
- Good outcome so far for 2024, mill production is low.
- Brian: how much more can you reduce costs (fuel and power costs)?
 Rob: Depending on the cycle, we have diesel running underground and it is only short-term.
 Stacey: Our electricity supply contract comes to an end this year so hopefully we see a cost reduction there.
- Neil: What are Evolution's views on green energy?
 Stacey: Positive, they have a net zero target by 2050, Cowal has entered into a power purchase agreement. We are just working through that with them on how Northparkes will approach it.
- Brian: Will solar farms in the area cheapen your power cost?
 Stacey: There is potential, but it depends on how much has already been sold to the market. The arrangement at Cowal is a project near Wagga, so they are open to it. It is probably too early to comment. We had a view and initiatives we were looking to implement, but coming into Evolution ownership means revisiting plans/planning for the future.
- Neil: Is there any chance of it being onsite (solar)?
 Rob: it has come up and have looked at it, but as we require constant supply day and night it is unlikely that solar will be viable on its own.
 Neil: Pumped hydro?
- Stacey: one of the QLD Evolution sites, Mt Rawdon, is about to start that process.
- Brian: Cowal looked at a gas power station...
- Chris: Just to understand, were these questions from the community or personal?
 Neil: Personal, just thinking about the other projects around town and being able to create your energy is becoming important. There are lots of different ways out there, it is just remembering



why you are doing it, firstly because you need to and secondly because it is best practice. Stewardship offsets were a part of it in the beginning and now this looks like it would be the next step to show maturing within the community. I know that other directors, councillors, and executives would have similar questions to continuously think forward. Its something that we could look at working on together.



- Management changes, not a lot of changes just slight modifications to the leadership structure.
- Changes to Superintendent Group onsite for clarity.

7. Evolution Mining ownership

Rob Cunningham – business update slides:

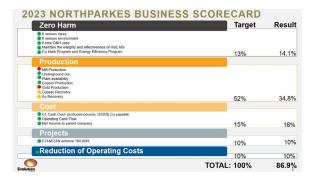


- Evolution took ownership of Northparkes' operations on 14/12/23
- Evolution's theme is a very strong message. We will be moving to Evolution's values of Safety, Accountability, Excellence and Respect. We are working through rolling those out to site.
- Lawrie (Evolution CEO) is passionate about continuing to grow those relationships with the community. We are excited to be working closely with Cowal, especially in the community space.

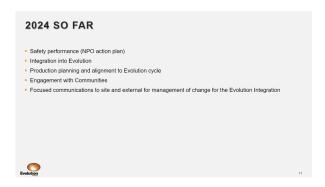
8. Operations update

Rob Cunningham – business update slides:





• We have come off the back of poor safety performance.



- There is a safety action plan that is being implemented, which we are working on onsite and with the Group Office to continue implementation.
- We are reviewing our production plan with Evolution into what we can achieve, and we will have a 5-year plan by the next 6 monthly meeting to give everyone an update.
- Neil: What will be your focus to get that message out to the community?
 Brooke: we plan to continue all our normal engagement, we do use social media strongly, we are, moving to the Evolution website so that will be a change for the community. Our Source newsletter our next drop will be a bit more targeted. We plan on meeting with the PSC comms team, we recently met with the FSC comms team which was helpful.
 - Brooke: I am sure there will be lots of opportunities to work with each other.
- Neil: The lack of volunteers in the community is a concern, even with RFS.
 David: The level of awareness is not there, and there are a lot of formalities now like insurance and risk assessments that complicate it. Northparkes used to have that group that would volunteer, you cannot beat that.
 - Brooke: We are going to revive that program, and it is beneficial to use from a team bonding point of view and the community loved that assistance.
 - David: you do have that great community relationship; you have a great platform to utilise here. Rob: It is a positive position to start from and we can build on that. We have to ask ourselves how to not just sustain it but grow it as well.

Brian left the meeting due to other commitments.

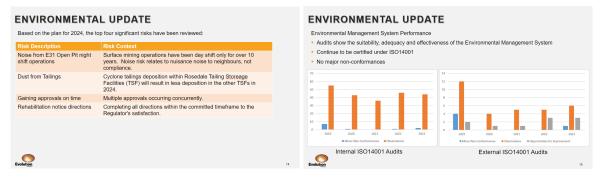
9. Environmental and approvals updates

Chris Higgins – Environmental update slides:



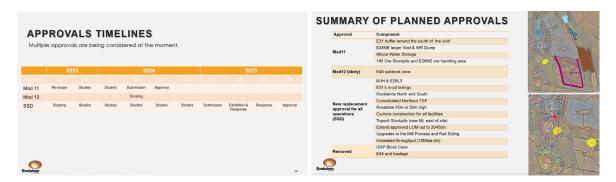


- We had a dusty September and October. The Rosedale TSF switched to a new method of deposition, cycloning, and we ended up with a dusty couple of months. We will continue to work on methods to stop the dust from happening again.
- CH spoke about the reasons for the two non-compliances. It was a shock for us to have two in one year as we rarely have them, but both are minor. We are working towards always having zero.
- Issues at Cadia mine have had a huge impact on the media and inquires have come from that. We carried out a soil and water sampling program of our own. It was fortunate timing because we had just had a dusty period and then did the sampling straight after. So, it could be considered as a worst-case scenario. Tailings dust impacts were not captured in neighbours' soil and water. We also found non-mining information important to landowners such as E.coli and lead levels in water supplies. Our tailings have less lead than the natural soil surrounding them.
- We are still working through our Life of Mine plans for the future of our Tailings Facilities. The
 directions from the notice have until the end of October. The regulator wants us to model the
 rehabilitation designs for the Tailings Facilities so we can confirm the rehab will last.
 David: is this from the Dept of Planning?
 - Chris: No, this is from the Resource Regulator.
 - Rob: A Tailings committee that has been established by the Regulator, and has a high level of engagement with mines. We will work with them, and this is an ongoing discussion on site to make sure we are compliant.
- Neil: did the 2022 flood impact the mine?
 Stacey: No, only people on nightshift not being able to get home, operational areas were not impacted.



Chris: we have just started nightshift on our E31 open cuts – which is a new potential noise risk.
The Environment & Farms team as well as the Communications team have been involved with
communicating that to our neighbours. We will continue to communicate any changes and see
how we go.





- Chris: We are getting close to submission of Modification 11.
- David & Neil: Can you elaborate on Modification 11?
- Modification 11 –(slide: Summary of planned approvals).
- Modification 12 we are working on scoping out this possible modification right now. E48 has
 finished as a block cave, now we are mining all of our underground ore out of E26. We are now
 looking to go below the existing block cave to get some more ore out of E48 as a sub-level cave.
 We are currently looking through the legality and costs for that.



- The current approval that Northparkes is working off was called the Step Change Approval, it was submitted back in 2013. The next big Approval that we were working on was called E44 Rocklands, however recently we have decided that E44 will be removed from our approvals.
- Chris: What we are presenting for the next big approval may change. This is a very early overview of what may occur. The details will be refined over the next six months as we work with Evolution to finalise our mining sequence.
- Chris: We are still working through the various components of the next large approval that will replace the Step Change Approval. Some of the components we may not need for a long time, but we want to get the regulators approval done now in case.
- David: E44 is off the agenda all together?
- Rob: E44 still being explored, if more ore could be found down there it could potentially have its own small processing plant there, but we have not got enough metal yet to establish that.
- Chris: Another part of the next big approval is that we are looking to move our soil stockpiles to the
 east side of the Mine, adjacent to Bogan Rd. This will hopefully get the material out of the way of
 future mining components.
- Chris: Any questions?
 Neil: The blue line in the previous diagram where did it go?
 Chris: GRP is a potential block cave that has been considered. It has been removed from the current approvals at this stage. It is likely to be something worth considering in the longer term.



10. Community update

COMMUNITY UPDATE	
Community Investment Program opening soon.	
New Sporting award; Parkes Shire Council and Northparkes Operations will announce a new sporting award for individuals in the Parkes Shire – the Rising Star Award, \$10,000 each year.	
30 Years of Operations in August 2024	
Evolution	17

Brooke Plunkett - Community update:

- CIP (Community Investment program)opening soon will be advertised on the radio, newspaper, and social media. If you could share with your contacts that would be appreciated.
- Sporting Grants reviewed and we are going to have a Rising Star Grants Program which will be available to individuals.
 - Brooke: The prompt was from Peak Hill and there was an individual there traveling to Perth for lawn bowls, so it was a great development.
- Neil: Is an open day on your thought list?
 Rob: Not this year. We have the 30 years of operations celebration and the 25 years of the air
 - blast memorial. We will make sure we engage with the community, not just a site-based event.

 Neil: if there is any focus on Bushman's Hill we will need to freshen that area up.
- Marg: Flagged with PSC and SLT about the path going up Bushman's Hill, the steps, and everything that needs to be refurbished good if NP and PSC could collaborate and fix it together.
- Brooke will follow up on the path with Council.

11. Terms of reference

- David: A new CCC Guideline was produced by DPE in middle of last year, which dictates the way CCC's operate. The Chair (DJ) has prepared and circulated for comment a *Terms of Reference*, as required by the Dept. We were able to make some choices, such as how quickly we circulate minutes and give notice of meetings etc.
- Brooke: (Page three) We should agree to at least two meetings per year; DJ and others agreed to that so it will be included in the T of R
- David: The list of committee members in the T of R will need to be updated to add Rob (the committee went through the list) Note: there is an allowance for the chair to remove members who have not turned up three times in a row.
 - BP: Tim Wright would add a lot if on the committee, but he may have conflict of interest, being paid by the Company?
 - David: We would just declare it and if something came up, he would not be a part of that decision.
- David: I will make changes to frequency and members, and we can raise it again in six months if anyone has any to add.
- Neil: How do we establish the frequency of meetings?
 Stacey: Depends on what happening within the business, for example if there was an environmental change or much going on, we may need to have one in three months.

12. Other business

- Rob: Can we set the months for meetings as being March and September? Yes, and noting that the 1st Monday of each month not suitable for PSC members.
 Marg: Just consult with Toni she coordinates the (PSC) calendars.
- Brooke will send an email to confirm the September date.
- David closed the meeting at 5.40pm.

Next Meeting - be held in September 2024, date to be confirmed.

