

**Karuah to Bulahdelah Upgrade Project
Community Interest Group**

NOTES

**Meeting #11
Tuesday 25 March 2008
Project Site Office
Pacific Highway
6.00 pm – 8.00 pm**

CIG members in attendance

Dick Ahmling	Rex Filson	Kelly Kurth
Peter Kendall	Cliff Johnson	Noel Cox
Yvonne Kendall	Greg Pitt	
Juergen Seil	John Kurth	

Project representatives in attendance

Steve Kiddle	Abigroup
Matt Frodsham	Abigroup
Cindy Douglas	Abigroup
Dick Whibley	RTA
Al McKinnon	RTA
Ian Long	RTA

Apologies

Myer Solomon

No.	Item	Issues / Actions	Action by
1	Welcome & Introductions	<p>Matt Frodsham – Facilitator</p> <p>Welcome to all attendees and introduction of Noel Cox, an additional representative for the residents from Nerong.</p> <p>Apologies noted.</p> <p>No comments from the previous meeting notes were received.</p>	
2	Actions arising from last meeting	<p>4.1 Abigroup to advise the CIG of a proposed date for the information session in May 2008 to be held in Tea Gardens for the local residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abigroup and the CIG agreed to the presentation being held on the 14 May 2008 commencing at 10.00am at the Masonic Lodge. <p>4.2 Abigroup to inspect the intersection at the turn off for Nerong.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abigroup advised the intersection had been inspected and the schedule for the early completion of the intersection was being considered. <p>4.4 Abigroup to report back to the CIG about the culvert/sediment pond located at chainage 84.04 and its capacity to cope with heavy rainfall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abigroup advised the Abigroup Environmental Manager, RTA Environmental Representative had inspected the sediment pond and additional controls to the western side of the sediment pond have been implemented. 	
3	Abigroup Project update	<p>Abigroup advised the fine weather had allowed for an increase in production.</p> <p>Southern Sections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spray seal on earthworks have commenced in this area in preparation of concrete paving. ▪ Approximately five areas of sealing will occur from the southern section through to Waterholes Gap. ▪ The paving machine has arrived with trial paving to commence on the 7 April 2008 in anticipation of paving starting on the 14 April 2008 pending weather. ▪ Paving will commence at the southern section through to the site compound. 	

3	<p>Construction Update continued</p>	<p>Whimbrel Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Works are continuing with approximately a half a metre of earthworks to be moved to reach sub grade level. <p>Northern Nerong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is at sub grade level with some fill required. ▪ Drainage works are progressing. <p>Blasting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No further blasting is required in the Viney Creek area. ▪ Possibly one more blast may be required at Waterholes Gap. ▪ No further blasting is required at Nerong South. ▪ Approximately five more blasts will be required in the Nerong north area. <p>Bridges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approach slab works are continuing on the Waterholes Gap Bridge. ▪ Approach slab works are continuing on the Slit Yard Creek Bridge. ▪ Arches are complete on the Jacks Creek Bridge. ▪ Bridgeworks are progressing well with parapets works continuing on the Grey Gum Gully Bridge. ▪ Myall Lakes National Park No 1 bridgeworks are nearing completion. ▪ Two arches are complete on the Myall Lakes National Park No 2 Bridge. ▪ The deck on the Houston's Flat Bridge was poured last week with parapet works pending. <p>Road works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minor road works are continuing West of Viney Creek. ▪ Works will commence within the next month on Myall Road. ▪ Works in the Whimbrel Drive area are in the critical path with early completion of the intersection being considered. The Community Relations Manager is to advise residents of progress. 	<p>Abigroup</p>
3.1.1	<p>Questions</p>	<p>The CIG inquired why the speed limit along the Highway at Nerong is 80kmph. The CIG members feel it should be 60kmph and is it possible to have it reduced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abigroup advised when construction works impact on the existing highway the speed limit is reduced to 60kmph for motorist's safety. ▪ Abigroup can place a request with the RTA however there is a concern with trucks speeding through that area now. Abigroup advised Bulahdelah police are being very vigilant with patrolling the area and the RTA is unlikely to reduce the speed limit. 	

3.1.2		<p>The CIG inquired as to how residents will gain access onto Myall River Road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abigroup advised an off ramp will be constructed with an approximate 1.5m rise, to maintain access at all times. 	
3.1.3		<p>The CIG inquired if the traffic switch mentioned in the October 2007 meeting will still occur in August 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abigroup advised the traffic switch for the southern Jack's Creek will be more likely to occur in September/October 2008. The traffic switch for Grey Gum Gully is proposed for October/November 2008. Abigroup advised media releases will be published prior to all traffic switches. 	
4	General Discussion		
4.1		<p>A CIG member passed on their thanks to the Community Relations Manager for the assistance with their pending bus trip to Sydney.</p>	
4.2		<p>A CIG member expressed concern at the outcome of a meeting between Busways Bus Company and the RTA in relation to the turnaround bay being built at the Nerong Whimbrel Drive turn-off. The CIG member advised Busways were not happy with the turnaround bay and may not utilise the bay causing inconvenience to the residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abigroup advised this discussion was outside the forum of the CIG however, Abigroup will obtain a copy of the minutes of the meeting between Busways and the RTA and forward a copy to all CIG members. 	Abigroup
4.3		<p>Abigroup advised the CIG of the joint decision between Abigroup and the RTA to install a 1.5m timber fence as a visual barrier on top of the 1.5m noise mound located along the alignment on the western side of the village of Nerong.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The CIG expressed their appreciation. A CIG member inquired if a hebel fence would be considered. ▪ The RTA advised the fence would be a visual barrier only therefore a hebel fence provides no additional noise mitigation. ▪ Abigroup advised the fence is currently in concept design and is anticipated to be timber blending in with the landscaping. This item will be tabled for the next CIG meeting with a presentation to the CIG members. 	Abigroup
4.4		<p>The RTA advised the CIG traffic incidents overall were minor over the Easter break.</p>	

4.5		<p>Abigroup advised residents had a misconception about the barriers located currently located on the existing highway. The placement of the barriers is carried out by RTA and has the effect of maintaining consistent and faster flows of traffic.</p>	
4.6		<p>A CIG member inquired as to how community groups go about requesting sponsorship from Abigroup.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abigroup advised any requests for sponsorship need to be directed to the Community Relations Manager. <p>Abigroup recently participated in the “Worlds Greatest Shave” contributing approximately \$14,000.00 to the Leukaemia Foundation.</p> <p>The Karuah to Bulahdelah Project also participates in “The Golden Boot Award”, an Abigroup internal fundraising event contributing to Beyond Blue.</p>	
4.7		<p>The CIG inquired if approval was given to extend working hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abigroup advised the approval to extend working hours had been granted. To date approximately five Saturdays and two Sundays had been utilised with all residents affected notified prior to the works commencing. 	
5	Next Meeting	<p>Meeting #11</p> <p>27th May 2008 6.00pm – 8.00pm Project Site Office</p>	