

**Karuah to Bulahdelah Sections 2 & 3 Upgrade Project
Community Interest Group**

NOTES

**Meeting #4
Monday 23rd April 2007
Abigroup Site Office Training Room
6.00 pm – 8.00 pm**

Attendance

CLG members

Dick (Rainer) Ahmling – Bulahdelah (DA)	Michelle Christoe – Outdoor Education (MC)
Rex Filson – National Parks Association (RF)	Mike Keegan – Great Lakes Council (MK)
Peter Kendall - Nerong Progress Association (PK)	Juergen Seil – Tea Gardens (JS)
John Stellema – Bulahdelah (JS)	Myer Solomon – Bulahdelah (MS)
Arthur Vinnecombe – Bulahdelah (AV)	Kevin Woods – Bulahdelah (KW)
John Whitehorn – Outdoor Education (JW)	

Project Team Members

RTA

Dick Whibley – RTA Representative (DW)
Alan McKinnon – Project Manager (AM)
Ian Long – Resident Engineer (IL)

Abigroup

Patrick McCormack – Project Director (PM)
Grant Fletcher – Environmental Manager (GF)
Steve Kiddle – Construction Manager (SK)
Kerry Morrison – Community Manager (KM)

Other Project Team Members

Murray Curtis – Environmental Management Representative (MC)

Apologies

Mark Eastwood – RTA	Cliff Johnson – Port Stephens Council (CJ)
Yvonne Kendall (YK)	Rob Ferguson – Design Manager (RF)
Bev Manton – Karuah LALC (BM)	

Handouts tabled or Attachments

None

Item	Issue / Action	Action
1.0	<p>Welcome and Introductions Apologies as listed above Introduction of new members CIG #3 meeting notes accepted without change</p>	
2.0	<p>Actions Arising from last meeting</p>	
2.1	<p>Item 2.6 – Country link use of turning circle KM reported that Countrylink has advised that seats are contracted with Busways for passengers travelling to Nerong as part of the Countrylink service. Busways has agreed to use the turning circle.</p> <p>KM also reported that contact had been made with Greyhound (McCaffertys is now Greyhound) and who confirmed that their scheduled stop is at Bulahdelah.</p>	
2.1a	<p>PK expressed concern that Nerong residents would loose ground with the loss of the bus stop on the Highway. PK requested Abigroup and RTA to “lean on” other bus companies to agree to stop at Nerong and use the turning circle.</p>	
2.1b	<p>Discussion of whether Abigroup and RTA could assist with the request regarding other bus companies. JW suggested that Councils may be able to assist. MK commented that Council has not been particularly assisted by bus companies in the past. Discussion concluded that the issue is outside the scope of the project and CIG meetings, and Abigroup and RTA are not in a position to request that other bus companies stop at Nerong.</p>	
2.2	<p>Item 5.1 Meeting at Tea Gardens Agreed that the meeting would be held on Wednesday 9th May at the Masonic Centre at Tea Gardens at 4 pm. Editorial to be provided to JS by Thursday for publication in Nota.</p> <p><i>Post meeting note: Abigroup has confirmed attendance and editorial was provided to JS on 26/6/07. Presentation provided on 9th May.</i></p>	<p>Note</p>
3.0	<p>Abigroup Project Update and presentation - Steve Kiddle</p>	
3.1	<p>Clearing: 25 ha of the 90ha required are complete. The main fronts are Waterholes and to the south; Burdekins and to the south. Houston's bridge has commenced. Equipment will continue to arrive throughout May. Erosion and sediment control basins are being constructed.</p>	
3.2	<p>Presentation was a series of photos showing a range of activities that will be and have been carried out as part of the construction process. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed collection • Aboriginal site survey • Silt fence and controls installation in advance of clearing works • Mounds of mulch • Hay bales and debris piles for sediment control • Flagging to define the National Park boundary and the limit of clearing • Swale drains and catchments drains • Sediment basins to collect and treat water prior to discharge to local waterways • Fauna fencing – will be installed in the future • Other fencing - type installed depends on the adjacent land use • Timber cutting - logs sent for milling and branches mulched for project use • Pipe works at Burdekins • Water carts, grader and compactor photos and description • Piling photos and descriptions 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge photos and descriptions • Concrete batch plant and paving equipment 	
3.3	Questions	
3.3.1	<p>Will Abigroup be able to collect much water? Abigroup responded that water will be sought from licensed bores, basins constructed for the project, and collection in 250,000 litre water tanks. Water will be captured during rainfall periods. Nerong harbour water will be used for dust suppression, and in accordance with the license.</p>	
3.3.2	<p>Will existing dams be used? Abigroup is talking to land owners to see if there are common solutions and whether they can work together.</p>	
3.3.3	<p>Could the presentation be brought to the Tea Gardens meeting? Abigroup agreed.</p>	Abigroup
3.3.4	<p>Will the overburden be used? Abigroup responded that the material will be used along the project.</p>	
3.3.5	<p>Ecologists have been seen looking for animals at night. Abigroup responded that after ecologists have identified the non-habitat trees, these are cleared, and ecologists check the habitat trees to see if they are inhabited. If yes, the tree is chopped and lowered to let the animal run away.</p>	
3.3.6	<p>Will trees be bored to create habitat trees? Abigroup responded that hollow trees and big tree stumps are being saved for future use and vegetation is being maintained near known fauna paths.</p>	
4.0	Blasting	
4.1	<p>Abigroup advised that planning for blasting was underway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approach is - take no risks at anytime during the blasts, for any road users, or community members or the workforce. • Four areas require blasting: Burdekins Gap, Waterholes Gap and Nerong – areas to the north and south • A specialist company will be subcontracted to Abigroup to undertake the blasts • Traffic will be required to stop for 15 minute periods for each blast • Blasts will be planned to occur at 1.15 pm – to assist people to work around the time if they need to. • The blast time may need to be altered to suit site production and delays • Public notification will be provided to all stakeholders – trucks, buses, local authorities and the local community through roadside signage, advertisements, website notices 	
4.2	<p>Waterholes Gap and Burdekins Gap – traffic will be stopped on the highway. There are few nearby houses so management and the blasting regime will be less complex.</p>	
4.3	<p>Nerong north and south is closer to the highway and houses. This requires a more complex approach with smaller size blasts. Safe perimeter areas will be identified and householders requested to comply with the safety measures.</p>	
4.4	<p>Monitoring – all blasts will be monitored for noise and vibration levels.</p>	
4.5	<p>No risks will be taken.</p>	
5.0	General discussion	

5.1	Concern about loose stones in Whimbrel Drive. Abigroup agreed to repair.	Abigroup
5.2	Discussion of future meeting date. Agreed to fix the date as every 4 th Tuesday.	Note
5.3	AV commented that he had seed from the pink flower tree which he could provide to Abigroup.	Note
5.4	Request that Pacific Highway traffic information be provided to The Rock. <i>Post meeting note: arrangements made by RTA.</i>	Note
5.5	Comment that there is a new journalist at Nota who is very interested to know what is going on. RTA agreed to provide information about the highway work progress.	
5.6	Comment that the Chamber of Commerce notice board could be used for information updates.	Note
5.7	Comment that fossils can be found at Nerong. DW commented that they need to be recovered if they can be found.	
6.0	Next Meeting Tuesday 29 th May 2007 at 6 pm Abigroup Site Office Training Room, Nerong	

Meeting closed: 7.30 pm