

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

NOTES

**Meeting #5
Tuesday 29th May 2007
Abigroup Site Office Training Room
6.00 pm – 8.00 pm**

Attendance

CLG members

Rex Filson – National Parks Association (RF)	Mike Keegan – Great Lakes Council (MK)
Peter Kendall - Nerong Progress Association (PK)	Juergen Seil – Tea Gardens (JS)
Yvonne Kendall (YK)	Myer Solomon – Bulahdelah (MS)
John Whitehorn – Outdoor Education (JW)	Kevin Woods – Bulahdelah (KW)

Project Team Members

RTA

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)
Rob Ferguson – Design Manager (RF)

Other Project Team Members

Murray Curtis – Environmental Management Representative (MC)

Visitors

Andrew Deck – Project Engineer (AD), Abigroup
Ken Edwards – Site Engineer (KE), Abigroup

Apologies

Dick Whibley – RTA Representative (DW)	Cliff Johnson – Port Stephens Council (CJ)
Mark Eastwood – RTA	Dick (Rainer) Ahmling – Bulahdelah (DA)
John Stellema – Bulahdelah (JS)	Arthur Vinnecombe – Bulahdelah (AV)
Michelle Christoe – Outdoor Education (MC)	

Handouts tabled or Attachments

- Plan showing Pacific Highway and Whimbrel Drive intersection

Item	Issue / Action	Action
1.0	Welcome and Introductions Apologies as listed above. Introduction of new attendees. CIG #4 meeting notes accepted without change	
2.0	Actions Arising from last meeting	
2.1	Item 3.3.3 – Presentation at Tea Gardens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KM reported that S Kiddle and A Deck gave a presentation at Tea Gardens on 9th May which was attended by 33 people. • JS thanked Abigroup for the presentation and noted that attendees had requested that another be given in 6 months and with more detailed plans. 	Note
2.2	Item 5.1 Loose stones in Whimbrel Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abigroup advised that a contractor will be carrying out the work within the next week. 	Note
3.0	Abigroup Project Update and presentation - Steve Kiddle	
3.1	Clearing: Southern clearing is now complete. Working is continuing from Nerong to the north with the far north yet to be completed. Other works undertaken include drainage lines and installation of road barrier systems where the works are very close to the road. Much of the machinery is now on site with scrapers working in the Waterholes area.	
3.2	Through the 23 km of construction area, 6 new access points have been or are to be constructed using the ends of overtaking zones to make safe access on and off the site. Four (4) are in place in addition to the site office entrance with two more yet to be constructed. Speed limit zones – Proposed to set up 2 blocks each of 3 km length where the speed is reduced to 80 km during the daytime work hours. Intent is to maintain 100km as much as possible. School holidays the speed limit will be 100km.	
3.3	Browns Flat rest area will be closed on 13 th June. VMS (Variable Message Signs) are already advising drivers.	
3.4	Questions	
3.4.1	Will blasting occur on 2 – 3 fronts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SK – one blast per day on 2 – 3 fronts 	
3.4.2	Will blasting be limited to weekdays only? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SK – Yes, week days only and not during School holidays 	
3.4.3	Is the work on time? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SK – The project works are delayed slightly due to the recent rain though no change to the completion date of the project is envisaged. 	
3.4.4	Will there only be one batch plant? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SK – yes, it is very large and known as a twin drum batch plant. 	
3.4.5	Site office entrance was difficult to find and the bright spot lights shone in the drivers eyes. Perhaps they need to be adjusted. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SK – Abigroup will look into the issue. 	
4.0	Presentation on Planned Blasting – Andrew Deck	
4.1	Key points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blast Management Plan has been prepared which details all the requirements for blasts including locations and safety requirements. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four (4) areas need to be blasted – Waterholes Gap, Burdekins Gap; Nerong North and Nerong South, due to hard rock in lower layers of the cut. The rock is un-fractured and cannot be ripped with excavation equipment. • Government safety guidelines require that measures be implemented • The safety requirements include stopping traffic on the Pacific Highway and relocation of people and livestock into safe areas. • Safe areas are between 300 m and 500 m from 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 • It is anticipated that there will be four blasts per week across the project • Public notification will be provided to all stakeholders – trucks, buses, local authorities and the local community through roadside signage, advertisements, website notices • Discussions will be held with Nerong residents • Nerong North and South are restricted blast sites and only light and small blasts can be used. • All blasts will be monitored for noise and vibration. • All material will be crushed on-site for reuse elsewhere on the project. • Government requirements and guidelines include the Ministers Conditions, Environmental Protection Licence, Environmental Impact Statement, RTA Scope of Works, Noise and Vibration Management Plan, and other standards and specifications for blast design. • Abigroup planning work to-date includes the completion of building condition surveys, assessment of geotechnical conditions, selection of a drill and blast contractor, arrangements for supplies, site specific inspections, and liaison with RTA traffic management people. • Safety is critical for all blast planning – for the public (road users, public and residents); work force; traffic; community and stakeholders • Nerong is the area with the highest impact – processes and procedures are being developed to minimise impacts. • Three relocation options are being considered and will be discussed with residents. 	
4.2	Questions	
4.2.1	<p>Will the material be reused on the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AD – all material will be processed in a crushing machine and reused on-site. 	
4.2.2	<p>Will there be a notification in Nota?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AD – the plan includes notification of all residents and road users. 	
4.2.3	<p>What are the timeframes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AD - The first two blast areas will be Waterholes and Burdekins Gaps with Nerong North and South starting at a later date. • Blasting in each area will take 3 – 4 months with much completed by the end of the year. Waterholes Gap blasting is expected to start next month and Nerong in September. 	
4.2.4	<p>Is weather a problem?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AD – Weather is not expected to be a big problem however there will be constraints with truck access during wet weather. Blasting will generally not be carried out through inclement weather. 	
4.2.5	<p>Will blasts be video taped?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AD – yes, all blasts will be recorded 	
4.2.6	<p>Will there be a set time for blasts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AD – yes, blasts will be planned to occur at 1.15 pm on blast days 	

4.2.7	JW advised that Outdoor Education has mini buses with wheel chair access available should Abigroup need to hire them.	Note
4.2.8	<p>Will blasting occur during School holidays?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AD – It is unlikely that blasting will occur during School holidays. <p><i>Post meeting note: RTA road occupancy licence requirements prohibits highway closures during the lead in and lead out periods of the NSW School holidays (due to high traffic volumes on the Pacific Highway). Blasting in between these times is permitted. Based on current program it is unlikely that blasting will be required during school holidays, however this will be confirmed closer to the date.</i></p>	Abigroup
4.2.9	<p>Will blasting be every day?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AD – generally blasts will occur every day however one day will be selected for the Nerong blasts. Possibly a Tuesday or a Friday. Resident input will be sought. 	
4.2.10	<p>Comment that there are often a lot of bike riders during the weekends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AD – No blasting is planned for weekends. 	
4.2.11	<p>Is protection for the telephone box required?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AD – This has been investigated. The phone box is far enough away and will not need protection. SK – the blasts are not considered a big impact on the ground and safety requirements minimise the extent of disturbance. 	
4.2.12	<p>Comment that the hydroelectric scheme used a siren to alert people prior to a blast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AD – options to alert people are being considered. Useful suggestion - will be considered. Siren will be used to alert the workforce prior to a blast – standard procedure. 	
4.2.13	<p>CIG member comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nerong has few people who are immobile. 50% of houses are weekenders. Casual visitors could be a problem. Fridge magnets could be used to remind people who to call. Local service stations would be good locations to notify locals and drivers. 	
5.0	General discussion	
5.1	<p>Telstra telephone exchange box location in relation to the new turning circle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan showing the location of the Telstra exchange box location and the new turning circle described by RF and plan handed round to CIG members. RF advised that the public telephone box would be relocated nearby, as shown on the plan. RF also described the location of the bus stop and car parking spaces. 	Note
5.2	<p>Query regarding Telstra clearances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abigroup advised that Telstra have approved the designs and are supervising the relocation of the public telephone box. 	Note
5.3	<p>Landscaping in Whimbrel Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AM – will there be landscaping in the area? RF – plans are being developed and are expected to be available in about 6 months. 	Note
5.4	<p>Naming of Nerong Creek</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abigroup noted that the name has been deleted off plans where it was not correct. RTA advised that signage will be removed. 	Note

5.5	<p>Bus access for Nerong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KM commented that a meeting has been arranged to discuss the issue after the CIG meeting. Meeting notes will be prepared and provided to CIG. 	
5.6	<p>Site working hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SK – Abigroup is seeking to change the working hours. Currently the Ministers Conditions of Approval specify 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday and 8 am to 1 pm on Saturday. Abigroup has arranged for the site work week to be Monday to Friday. To enable the same number of working hours it is proposed to change the working hours from 6.30 am to 6.30 pm with no or minimal work on Saturdays. Approval to change the condition must be sought from the Department of Planning, and include community consultation. <p>CIG asked if there were any concerns and provided the following responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be good as it will let Abigroup catch up. • Nerong has experienced work hours between 6 am to 6 pm in the past and there is not likely to be any objection if it will help to shorten the length of the project. • Could anticipate less mornings of interruption. <p>Abigroup advised that this information will be included in the submission to RTA.</p>	Note
5.7	<p>Relocation of power lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SK - advised that powerlines will need to be relocated next month. The first relocation is in the south and the second is in the north. Some work may occur on weekends. It is anticipated that the Abigroup site office will loose power and some households. All householders will be notified. <p><i>Post meeting note: Nerong residents may also loose power for a short period of time. Preliminary information from Country Energy advised as above but has now confirmed that the power supply cannot be redirected. Details will be provided prior to any outage.</i></p>	Abigroup
5.8	<p>Vehicles using Whimbrel Drive to turn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns that vehicles are still using Nerong to turn around. Request that signage be installed. • SK – Abigroup agreed to erect signs. • PM – Abigroup will repair road damage to the previous standard. • GF – garden will be reinstated at the completion of works. 	Abigroup
5.9	<p>Bus shelter on the Pacific Highway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PK – request that the second bus shelter be relocated to some where else in Nerong. • MK – Bus shelter is the property of the Department of Transport and could be used elsewhere in the Council area. MK will discuss with DoT. 	Council
5.10	<p>Other communications</p> <p>RTA advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website is going live in the next couple of days – KM to alert CIG members • Community Update (project brochure) is still in preparation • MS – request that the advertisement be distributed to CIG members by email – KM agreed to distribute 	Abigroup
5.11	<p>KW – problem with fencing at his property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SK – will be investigated 	Abigroup
6.0	<p>Next Meeting Tuesday 24th July 2007 at 6 pm Abigroup Site Office Training Room, Nerong</p>	

Meeting closed: 8.15 pm