

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

NOTES

Meeting #6
Tuesday 26th June 2007
Abigroup Site Office Training Room
6.00 pm

Attendance

CLG members

Rex Filson – National Parks Association (RF)	Mike Keegan – Great Lakes Council (MK)
Dick (Rainer) Ahmling – Bulahdelah (DA)	Juergen Seil – Tea Gardens (JSeil)
Cliff Johnson – Port Stephens Council (CJ)	Myer Solomon – Bulahdelah (MS)
Lance Reece – Nerong Progress Association (LR)	Kevin Woods – Bulahdelah (KW)
Arthur Vinnecombe – Bulahdelah (AV)	Priscilla Mason – KLALC (PM)
John Stellema – Mobil Fast Food Bulahdelah (JS)	Fiona Manton – KLALC (FM)

Project Team Members

RTA

Alan McKinnon – Project Manager (AM)
Dick Whibley – RTA Representative (DW)

Abigroup

Patrick McCormack – Project Director (PMC)
Steve Kiddle – Construction Manager (SK)
Kerry Morrison – Community Manager (KM)
Therese Bowden – Community Officer (TB)

Other Project Team Members

Murray Curtis – Environmental Management Representative (MC)

Apologies

Grant Fletcher – Abigroup Environmental Manager (GF)	Peter and Yvonne Kendall - Nerong Progress Association (PK & YK)
Ian Long – Resident Engineer (IL)	John Whitehorn – Outdoor Education (JW)
Mark Eastwood – RTA	Michelle Christoe – Outdoor Education (MC)

Handouts tabled or Attachments

Nil

Item	Issue / Action	Action
1.0	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apologies – as above. • Therese Bowden from Abigroup introduced in the role of CIG administration and note taker. • CIG #5 meeting notes accepted without change 	
2.0	Actions Arising from last meeting	
2.1	Item 4.2.8 Blasting during School holidays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abigroup advised that the contract is specific about work allowed in the periods leading up to and at the end of the school holidays. There is to be no traffic delays during these times. • However, during the School holidays when the traffic levels are low, work may occur, with disruption to traffic. This means that there may be some blasting during the School holidays with short term traffic stoppages. • This information is an amendment to the information provided at the last meeting. 	Note
2.2	Item 5.7 Relocation of power lines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SK advised that at the last meeting it was not expected that Nerong residents would lose power during the power line relocation, SK has since received information that it is likely that Nerong residents will be without power at least once during the seven week period of power line relocation work. Notices will be distributed to residents advising of the outage day(s). 	Note
2.3	Item 5.8 - Turning Vehicles into Whimbrel Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SK advised that signs are made up already and will be installed as soon as possible (weather permitting). 	
2.4	Bus Shelter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Keegan advised that Council has written to the Ministry of Transport regarding the bus shelter and is awaiting a response. A letter will also be sent to the Nerong Progress Association advising of the outcome. 	
2.5	Item 5.10 - Other Communications KM advised <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project website is now 'live'. CIG members advised by email. • Community Update (project brochure) is expected in 2 weeks from RTA. • The construction advertisement emailed to CIG members – as requested. 	
2.5.1	MS requested that a larger copy be distributed. KM agreed to distribute.	Abigroup
2.6	Item 5.11 - Fencing at Kevin Woods Property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Woods was visited by Abigroup personnel to discuss concerns with access to his driveway. These included driveway access; fence line; fence strainer posts; mulch over the barb wire. • SK advised that concerns would be addressed. 	Abigroup
3.0	Abigroup Project Update - Steve Kiddle	
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain continues to delay the project works. • Abigroup have mostly completed the clearing. • The fencing is mostly completed. • Most machinery has arrived on site ready to proceed with works. • Earthworks will continue at Burdekins Gap, Waterholes Gap and around Viney Creek Road as priorities... • Abigroup will be concentrating on the Southern end of the project as the first priority, from the offices to the southern extent. 	

3.2	Questions	
3.2.1	How long will it take to do section between Jacks Creek & Nerong. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SK advised that this section will take until the completion of the project 	
3.2.2	Will bridges be going ahead? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SK advised that bridges are going ahead. All works are affected by the weather. 	
3.2.3	What is the difference between Stage 1 and Stage 2? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 1 – Construction of southbound lanes Stage 2 – Construction of northbound lanes Stage 3 – Last part of the southbound lanes through Nerong 	
4.0	General Discussion	
4.1	Issues raised by Nerong Progress	
4.1.1	Southbound entry slip lane - left turn out of Whimbrel Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LR – explained that residents are concerned that there is no slip lane shown on the plan provided at the last meeting. Compared to the Tea Gardens turning lane, it seems inconsistent. The entry appears dangerous and will not be as good as the current situation. PMC commented that the RTA design guidelines are used as the basis for the design and preferred design is dependant on traffic volumes. There is more traffic using the intersection at Tea Gardens. DW commented that as it currently exists, the intersection does not have a full length acceleration lane. Drivers have to look over their shoulder to check for traffic while merging. This is not the preferred situation - there should be either no acceleration lane or a full length acceleration lane. Each intersection along the highway is designed to conform to the RTA design guidelines. AM – The intersection has been designed as purely left turn. No acceleration lane has been provided. The small widening taper shown on the drawing is the tracking path for a heavy vehicle turning into the slow vehicle lane. LR – Standards change with time and he does not accept that it is an appropriate design for this intersection, particularly with the number of boats and caravans that use the intersection. Community opinion is that an acceleration lane is needed. The outcome will be reported to the Nerong Progress Association (NPA) committee. He is not happy with the standards. 	
4.1.2	Long Distance Bus Runs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LR – NPA members are concerned about the ongoing bus service to Nerong. KM – RTA has no authority to regulate long distance bus runs. The relevant authority is the NSW Ministry of Transport (MOT). MOT regulates all urban, country and rural bus services. Contact made with MOT who advised that MOT has to consent to the transfer or change of ownership of bus operators. Note: Information from MOT website provided to LR at the end of the meeting by KM. 	
4.2	Arthur Vinnecombe access: AV advised that RTA has granted an alternative access as requested.	
4.3	Nerong resident interviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KM explained that interviews are being carried out with residents of Nerong to give people information and an understanding of the process. The purpose is to determine the requirements of each household and ascertain special needs. The interviews commenced this week and will be continued over the next 	

	<p>couple of weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abigroup has prepared an information sheet that will be handed out to all residents. It is currently with RTA for approval. 	
4.4	<p>New CIG members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KM commented that, through the interview process, there are some Nerong residents who are not members of the Progress Association. CIG members asked if they had any objections to new members being invited to the CIG to represent other parts of Nerong. No objections were raised. 	
4.5	<p>Members comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JS - 80 members of the Hawks Nest Bowling Club etc would like to express their appreciation to Abigroup staff regarding their 'good style of behaviour' 	
4.6	<p>Site office entrance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern that the entrance into site office is hard to see at night. Residents of Nerong suggested putting in street lights. Additional markings and delineation has been installed at the intersection. SK will review again. 	Abigroup
5.0	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 24th July 2007 at 6 pm Abigroup Site Office Training Room, Nerong</p>	

Meeting closed: 7.00 pm