

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

**NOTES**

**Meeting #7  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 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 Ahmling – Bulahdelah (DA)	Myer Solomon – Bulahdelah (MS)
Cliff Johnson – Port Stephens Council (CJ)	Kevin Woods – Bulahdelah (KW)
John Whitehorn – Outdoor Education (JW)	John Kurth – Nerong Resident (JK)
Arthur Vinnecombe – Bulahdelah (AV)	Kelly Kurth – Nerong Resident (KK)
Yvonne Kendall - Nerong Progress Association (YK)	Peter Kendall - Nerong Progress Association (PK)
Kevin Woods – Bulahdelah (KW)	

**Project Team Members**

**RTA**

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

**Abigroup**

Patrick McCormack – Project Director (PMC)  
Steve Kiddle – Construction Manager (SK)  
Kerry Morrison – Community Manager (KM)  
Grant Fletcher – Environmental Manager (GF)  
Ken Edwards – Engineer (KE)  
Matt Frodsham – Communications & Community Manager, Bonville (MF)

**Other Project Team Members**

Murray Curtis – Environmental Management Representative (MC)

**Apologies**

Juergen Seil – Tea Gardens (JSeil)  
Lance Reece – Nerong Progress Association (LR)  
John Stellema – Mobil Fast Food Bulahdelah (JS)

Michelle Christoe – Outdoor Education (MC)

**Handouts tabled or Attachments**

Enlarged copy of the construction advertisement for May to July 2007

Item	Issue / Action	Action
1.0	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apologies – as above.</li> <li>CIG #6 meeting notes accepted without change</li> </ul>	
2.0	<b>Actions Arising from last meeting</b>	
2.1	Item 2.5.1 - Larger copy of construction advertisements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KM advised that a larger copy of the construction advertisement was distributed to CIG members prior to the meeting.</li> </ul>	<b>Note</b>
2.2	Item 2.6 - Fencing at Kevin Woods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abigroup advised that the matters had been addressed.</li> </ul>	<b>Note</b>
2.3	Item 4.6 – Abigroup site office entrance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SK advised that additional works had been undertaken, including line marking. With the clearing complete the entrance is now easier to see.</li> </ul>	
3.0	<b>Abigroup Project Update - Steve Kiddle</b>	
3.1	<p><b><u>More rain experienced however further progress was made as outlined:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>South</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearing has been completed</li> <li>Scrapers operating Cut/Fill work at Viney Creek</li> <li>80% drainage systems complete</li> <li>Waterholes Gap – main earthworks focus of south section with scraper fleet hauling all material southbound.</li> <li>Crushing operations also running at Waterholes for material re-use across the site.</li> <li>Split yard Bridge – piling to commence next month, and will be the first bridge to commence construction.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>North</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nerong – completing the clearing main focus</li> <li>Crushing operations running at Nerong South.</li> <li>Nerong – Burdekins, second scraper fleet hauling material south and north</li> <li>North Burdekins – 6 smaller cut/fill transitions, starting to resemble new alignment.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>General</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relocation of Telstra, Country Energy and Visionstream services is currently in progress.</li> <li>Blasting to commence in approx 4 weeks at Waterholes, followed by Burdekins.</li> </ul>	
3.2	<b>Questions</b>	
3.2.1	Has all the rain exposed the problem areas? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SK advised that it has just made the earthworks 'boggy' and has been taken into account in the earthworks strategy.</li> </ul>	
3.2.2	How far behind has the rain put the works? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SK advised that it has not been enough to panic. SK advised that the additional plant and machines on site are a response to the rain</li> </ul>	
3.2.3	When will spray seed works commence? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SK advised that Abigroup purchased a spray seed machine. Spray seeding will commence when stockpiles become permanent.</li> </ul>	

	<p>What about the native seeds?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SK advised September to October next year</li> </ul>	
3.2.4	<p>Generally across the whole project, the southern area seems to be lagging behind, is this fair to say?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SK advised that Abigroup's intention is to pave from the southern section. The rain has affected the southern section significantly more than the north due to its flatter terrain.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Controlled Blasting</b>	
4.1	Abigroup have been conducting door knocks in Nerong to determine the permanent resident/rentals/weekenders and to inform of the initial plans.	
4.2	Blasting at Nerong Cuts may be 2 days a week.	
4.3	Each blast will be monitored for noise, dust and vibration.	
4.4	The process for the blasting at the Nerong Cuts is evolving and the plan is being modified. Residents will receive an information sheet updating all the procedures.	
4.5	Whimbrel Drive will be closed for the Nerong Blasting to prevent vehicles exiting Nerong.	
4.6	Lunch facilities will be provided. Abigroup in process of planning the lunch options. Rotary Club/lions club or other community clubs to be looked at.	
4.7	All the information public sheets that will be issued to the public are RTA approved.	
4.8	Nerong community controlled blast information day scheduled for Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> August at the Abigroup site office.	
4.9	<b>Questions</b>	
4.9.1	<p>Does the electricity get switched off for the blasts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abigroup advised that the electricity will remain on during the blasts</li> </ul>	
4.9.2	<p>Abigroup sought suggestions for community groups who may be able to cater for the lunches? Suggestions provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The community group suggested Lions Club in Tea Gardens, Stroud Rotary Club, Golf Club, Anglican/Baptist Church Women's Community group, Meals on wheels, Bulahdelah High School cooking class</li> </ul>	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>General Discussion</b>	
5.1	Issues raised by Nerong Progress Association	
5.1.1	NPA said thankyou for the installation of the Sign at the entrance to Nerong.	
5.1.2	There is still a sign with unnamed creek on it near Whimbrel Drive.	<b>RTA</b>
5.1.3	<p>The power line easement access road – there is a lot of water running down the road, and it is acting as a chute channelling the water across Whimbrel Drive and into the stormwater.</p> <p>Abigroup advised that the controls have been established at the western end of the road to limit and control water flowing off site.</p> <p>Post meeting note: Abigroup &amp; RTA carried out a site inspection and have ascertained that the controls in place are appropriate and further diversions of the water down its natural watercourse were not possible without doing</p>	

	substantial work outside of the project boundaries.	
5.1.4	NPA said a great thanks to Abigroup for the assistance in building works at the community centre.	
5.1.5	<p>Southbound entry slip lane - left turn out of Whimbrel Drive</p> <p>PK – advised that the NPA had conducted another meeting regarding the Southbound exit from Nerong onto the Pacific Highway. Issues raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The intersection similar to the Rock has been rejected for the Nerong Intersection</li> <li>• There are many boat and trailer movements out of Nerong</li> <li>• RTA has advised that it will explain the Nerong Intersection to the NPA to go through the Road Design Guide and other issues. The new alignment will have two southbound lanes with a flatter grade.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p>	RTA
5.1.6	<p>Q – Will the speed limit be 90km/hr through Nerong Intersection? A – The speed will be 100km/hr.</p>	
5.1.7	Comment was made to congratulate Abigroup on the displayed communication skills.	
5.1.8	<p>Comment - for the Power outages that occur on the project, it would be better if the time of shutdown and anticipated time of it coming back on was advised to the community, so that they know when to have coffee, defrost freezer etc.</p> <p>Abigroup responded that the power outages were arranged by Country Energy and information on times should be sought from them.</p>	
5.1.9	Next CIG can the Fauna Study information be provided. What fauna was found?	Abigroup
6.0	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2007 at 6 pm</b> Abigroup Site Office Training Room, Nerong</p>	

Meeting closed: 8.00 pm