

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

### **NOTES**

**Meeting #8  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2007  
Abigroup Site Office Training Room  
6.00 pm**

#### **Attendance**

##### **CLG members**

Kevin Woods (KW)	Mike Keegan – Great Lakes Council (MK)
Arthur Vinnecombe – Bulahdelah (AV)	John Kurth – Nerong Resident (JK)
Lance Reece (LR) Nerong Progress Association	Kelly Kurth – Nerong Resident (KK)
John Whitehorn – Outdoor Education (JW)	Myer Solomon – Bulahdelah (MS)
	Juergen Seil – Tea Gardens (JSeil)

#### **Project Team Members**

##### **RTA**

Alan McKinnon – Project Manager (AM)  
Ian Long – Resident Engineer (IL)

##### **Abigroup**

Steve Kiddle – Construction Manager (SK)  
Kerry Morrison – Community Manager (KM)  
Grant Fletcher – Environmental Manager (GF)  
Ken Edwards – Engineer (KE)

#### **Other Project Team Members**

Murray Curtis – Environmental Management Representative (MC)

#### **Apologies**

Cliff Johnson – Port Stephens Council (CJ)	Dick Whibley – RTA Representative (DW)
Dick Ahmling – Bulahdelah (DA)	Michelle Christoe – Outdoor Education (MC)
Rex Filson – National Parks Association (RF)	Yvonne and Peter Kendall – Nerong Progress Association (YK & PK)
Karuah LALC	John Stellema – Bulahdelah (JS)

#### **Handouts tabled or Attachments**

- RTA Community Update August 2007
- Blast information sheet (#1) July 2007
- Blast information sheet (#2) August 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 #7 meeting notes accepted without change</li> </ul>	
2.0	<b>Actions Arising from last meeting</b>	
2.1	Item 5.1.2 – Un-named creek signage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RTA advised that the Nerong Creek sign had been removed.</li> </ul>	<b>Note</b>
2.2	Item 5.1.5 – Southbound left turn from Whimbrel Drive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RTA advised that a meeting had been held with LR, PK and other NPA representatives to explain the guidelines.</li> <li>RTA advised that there would be no left turn merge lane from Whimbrel Drive.</li> <li>Nerong Progress Association representative advised that they do not agree with RTA's decision.</li> </ul>	<b>Note</b>
2.3	Item 5.1.9 – Fauna presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KM advised that this is an agenda item and Grant Fletcher would give a presentation later in the meeting.</li> </ul>	
3.0	<b>Abigroup Project Update - Steve Kiddle</b>	
3.1	<p><b><u>South</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Viney Creek west – Works on the major cuts have commenced.</li> <li>Drainage culvert &amp; structures are progressing with major installation works and concrete pours.</li> <li>Earth Works – hauling in the direction of Browns Flat.</li> <li>Waterholes cut – material moving south (has now gone as far as the northbound rest area).</li> </ul> <p><b><u>North</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Material from Burdekins Gap hauling both south &amp; north.</li> <li>Blasting commenced at Burdekins Gap with the 1<sup>st</sup> blast successfully completed today.</li> <li>Material from Nerong Hill (cut 14) down to front of compound.</li> <li>Nerong – finished clearing, work on side track.</li> <li>Speed zone down to 80 km, in Nerong due to side tracks.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Bridges</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Piling has commenced at Splyard Creek, Nerong, Waterholes, and Myall Number 1 bridges.</li> <li>Concrete works at Splyard, Nerong, &amp; Waterholes bridges to commence soon.</li> <li>All under bridge works on the creeks have been completed.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>General</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearing complete on entire project.</li> <li>Traffic control for intermittent stoppages will continue while undertaking project works.</li> <li>14 Scrapers operational – 1 more to come.</li> <li>4 large dozers operational.</li> <li>Running 4 scraper fleets for the earthworks.</li> <li>50t dumper fleet to commence soon.</li> </ul>	
3.2	<b>Questions</b>	
3.2.1	Where does this Project finish at the northern side of the project? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SK advised that the project finishes 1km south of the Booral Road intersection.</li> </ul>	
3.2.2	Will any material be moved off this job and used elsewhere? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SK responded that RTA plans to use material from Burdekins Gap in the Bulahdelah Bypass although details are not yet finalised.</li> </ul>	

<b>3.3</b>	<b>Blasting update</b>	
3.3.1	Abigroup conducted community information day on Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> August at the site office training room. 30 residents from Nerong and Highway region attended.	
3.3.2	Blasting at Burdekins commenced today – 28 <sup>th</sup> August. The highway was stopped for 7 minutes during the blast.	
3.3.3	Each blast will be monitored – there were no impacts recorded at the houses near the Burdekins Gap blast.	
3.3.4	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.	
3.3.5	Whimbrel Drive will be closed for the Nerong Blasting to prevent vehicles exiting Nerong. People will be able to leave before 1.15pm and return after 1.30 pm.	
3.3.6	Lunch facilities will be provided. Abigroup in process of planning the lunch options. Rotary Club/lions club or other community club to be looked at.	
3.3.7	All the information sheets that will be issued to the public are RTA approved. Additional copies available tonight.	
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Questions</b>	
3.4.1	Did anyone divert onto Booral Road during the blast? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SK advised that no record was made</li> </ul>	
3.4.2	NPA agreed to put a copy of the blast information sheet #2 – August 2007 – on display at the Nerong community notice board	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Fauna presentation – Grant Fletcher</b>	
	The following is a brief summary of the fauna presentation provided. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 346 trees were identified</li> <li>• 277 trees were removed</li> <li>• 69 trees were retained</li> <li>• 73 hollows were found with fauna</li> <li>• 28 different species of fauna were found</li> <li>• 6 large hollows were relocated</li> <li>• 94 hectare, not 154 hectares, cleared.</li> </ul>	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>General Discussion</b>	
5.1	<b>Highway traffic speed:</b> Middle aged & elderly people that are travelling north bound from Tea Gardens and Hawks Nest are concerned with the 100km/h speed zone on the length of the project. The highway is narrow and there is construction work in progress which is distracting drivers and is posing a danger to these travellers. Formal request by the groups JS represents (Probus, Masonic club, etc) to RTA to make the entire highway along the project to 80km/h. (Juergen Seil).	<b>RTA</b>
5.2	Formal request from Kevin Woods – when travelling south from Bulahdelah it is unsafe to access his driveway. The chevron island affects his access in regard to slowing down and safely entering his property. KW requested an alternative access. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTA advised that it is legal to drive over the painted chevron island if making a turn from the road, provided it is not bordered by a double barrier line and you give way to any turning traffic following the island edge.</li> <li>• Abigroup agreed to review.</li> </ul>	<b>Abigroup</b>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	
	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2007 at 6 pm Abigroup Site Office Training Room, Nerong	

Meeting closed: 7.15 pm