

**AMBRE ENERGY COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP (CLG)  
MINUTES OF MEETING THREE**

<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, 19 November 2009
<b>Venue:</b>	Pittsworth Motor Inn, Pittsworth

	<b>Opening from the Chair, Greg Bourke (1105)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apologies listed by Chair.</li> </ul>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Review of minutes - <i>accepted and agenda confirmed</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The chair thanked the members for their review and confirmation of past minutes as they were relied upon and accessed by many other people. As a public record, all effort was taken to make sure they reflected the perspectives of the CLG members.</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Review of previous meeting/ issues relating to the last meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of interest in traffic studies – section allocated within this agenda</li> <li>• Interest in rehabilitation – section allocated within this agenda</li> <li>• Interest in water – standing item within general business</li> </ul>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Report of Ambre Energy attendance at Senate hearing into the impacts of mining in the Murray Darling catchment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senate held a hearing in Oakey on 29 Sept under its terms of reference to investigate the impacts of mining in the Murray Darling Basin.</li> <li>• Jason Russell, Ambre Energy, attended, but was unable to present due to very short notice of invitation extended by the Senate committee. He attended as an observer.</li> <li>• Jason explained that a detailed transcript is available, and would be provided to CLG members (the relevant section of the transcript is pp 29-42.)</li> <li>• Jason stated that many of the issues presented to the Senate committee were known to Ambre Energy and many would be investigated within the EIS. There were a number of matters that were state government policy responsibility.</li> <li>• The chair explained that there were comments made by a witness during the hearing that the CLG is confidential and secretive. The CLG members expressed that membership of the CLG was well known, and that a number of members promote their membership among their communities. The chair explained that membership remains open and minutes are posted on the Ambre Energy website.</li> </ul>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Report – rehabilitation research</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neil McGregor, Ambre Energy, explained that the company is researching rehabilitation techniques for mining in agricultural areas and contacting international experts. Neil and other Ambre Energy employees recently visited some former and</li> </ul>

current mines in Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky in the United States (US) to investigate current practice.

- Neil explained the US has a long history of reclamation (as the practice is called in the US) based on long standing legislation and high community expectations. The study tour was supported by academics and practitioners with 30-40 years experience.
- There have been many improvements in rehabilitation in the US based around social and economic demand, legislation and the commitments of the mining industry. The outcomes include restoration of the land and soil back to productive capacity.
- Some of the major factors and improvements have involved soil handling techniques that reduce erosion and compaction during storage and replacement.
- A member suggested that many of the areas studied were within the snow-belt and that the reclamation demonstrated and witnessed would be subject to far greater amounts of moisture compared with Felton. This was accepted with the explanation that the study was to learn the key variables of rehabilitation plans (subject to approval and mine progression). Neil explained that the examples illustrated what could be done and they were looking for illustrations of the possible outcomes.
- A question was raised about the Queensland context – it was explained that the government usually grades the land and soil due to its suitability and capacity, and requires the company to return the land back to this standard. All rehabilitation plans are tailored to local circumstances. Plans are required within the EIS submission.
- There followed discussion about the quality of the land and soil across the proposed mine site, and future use, especially if the recent rain profile continued a long time into the future.
- A member stated that eventual use of the site might be limited. The full range of land uses may not be practical under current rainfall – it probably couldn't be returned to cropping without much more rain, and perhaps will be suitable for grazing or forestry in the future.
- A member asked about Moura and other, older mines, where there are large piles of overburden left. Jason Russell explained that to his knowledge the original mine approval was granted many years ago without need for rehabilitation. These mines are now subject to new standards.
- Members asked about examples in other countries – examples of mines/ mining locations in Germany, Brazil, and Zimbabwe were cited.

## **5. Discussion – traffic and transport investigations**

- Jason Russell led a discussion on local traffic scenarios – refer attached PowerPoint presentation. He stated that traffic and road safety is a significant study within the EIS.
- It is not expected that roads will be permanently closed, but temporary closures can be expected when there are detonations close to the road or when large plant is being brought to the site. Closures would usually only occur occasionally and for short periods
- The main use of roads will depend on the market for the product. There may be transport routes to the south, north, east or west depending on the market.
- A member asked about Ambre Energy's market research. It was explained that market analysis is ongoing. Further, the products derived from Syngas have many potential uses and prospective markets. Separate officers within Ambre Energy are seeking

	<p>contracts/ buyers. It was explained that Syngas has very diverse application – fuel, use in plastics, use in fertilisers etc. Ambre Energy is appraising all possible market opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The economics and project viability include the amount of time spent handling and transporting raw material, costs of manufacture, value-adding and distance/ transport costs.</li> <li>• The road studies will only be completed when the markets are confirmed.</li> <li>• A member asked whether Ambre Energy could use the new inland rail that is proposed. Ambre Energy responded that access to rail could be useful, and it will depend on the timing of new infrastructure.</li> <li>• A member expressed his view that there will be conditions placed on Ambre Energy to contribute to the maintenance of local roads – Ambre Energy said they expected this, as it was common.</li> </ul>
<b>6.</b>	<b>General business</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A member asked for an update on water. Ambre Energy responded by Jason explaining that access to water remains the number one issue and a major threat to the project. The company has met with Toowoomba Regional Council, the SEQ water grid manager, and coal seam gas (CSG) companies during the year to assess potential sources of water. The investigations are ongoing. One of the main issues is the certainty of supply. A factor with (associated) water from the extraction of CSG is the guarantee of supply. Raising finance for the project will depend on certainty of water supply.</li> <li>• A member asked when the studies would be completed and when the government might consider the results. Ambre Energy replied that studies will continue into 2010 and others will commence next year. The issue of water will be a major factor as to viability and timing. A plan for water must be in the application to government.</li> <li>• A member asked about Ambre Energy expansion. Ambre Energy replied that the company is investigating an Australian SynFuels Project concept and has access to a number of potential sites in South East Queensland. This would be developed by a subsidiary of Ambre Energy.</li> <li>• Jason Russell explained that this would be his last CLG meeting as he has accepted a transfer within the company to the US.</li> <li>• Ambre Energy explained it is seeking to recruit additional positions and these have been advertised.</li> <li>• Ambre Energy expressed its appreciation of people’s interest and time, and the group was working as it had hoped – local knowledge and issues were being raised, and this would assist to ensure that the EIS is thorough.</li> <li>• The chair and Ambre Energy wished the group a good end of year, and a successful start to 2010.</li> </ul>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting, action, close</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting date to be advised in the future. It is likely to be in February.</li> </ul>
<b>9.</b>	<b>1.00 pm meeting closed</b>