



Minutes of CCG Meeting

19 March 2025

Barton Centre Conference Centre
Wallerawang

Present:

David Wood, GPM CEO (DW)
Paul Glasson, Western Region Manager (PG)
Julian MacPhee, Environmental Project Engineer (JMP)
Tim Edwards, Engineering Project Officer (TE)
Carol Cropper, Pursuit Communications (CC)

Apologies:

Karen Simpson

No-Shows:

Morgan Starkey

Paul Curran (PC)
Graham Johnson (GJ)
Ross Guihot (RG)
Bernadette Ryan (BR)

Minutes:

1. CCG members arrived at 6pm.
2. DW welcomed the group and introduced himself as the new CEO, giving a description of his professional and personal background. DW also announced that they are looking for a new Site Supervisor at the KVAR site in Lidsdale who will oversee the on-site contractors.
3. DW said one of the major focusses for him personally since joining GPM is dam safety.. Further to the practical emergency exercise with the SES , there were some useful recommendations following the training that would improve the emergency process, and they are waiting on the final report to be provided with recommendations. Advances in our Dam Safety requirements and further initiatives are ongoing with the end target oof reducing both risk and consequence.
4. DW updated the group of GPM's activities since the last meeting:
 - ***Shaping KVAR floor***
 - ***Final holding pond***
 - ***Wetland pond interim storm water management upgrades***
 - ***Hydromulch placed in various areas***
 - ***Ongoing covering/capping of contaminated areas***
 - ***Detailed site investigations complete***
 - ***SSCAD practical emergency exercise completed 27.2.25***RG asked what was involved in the exercise. PG answered that it was a practical simulation of the response following a hypothetical disaster which in this scenario was an earthquake within 30kms of the KVAR site. The process was to go and

inspect the dam using a drone, then make a physical inspection, send a notification to the SES and Dam Safety NSW. The process then followed the steps outlined in the Emergency response plan DW said the next steps are to work out the optimal way to promptly notify the community. . RG asked if there was a physical alarm system should the dam be compromised. PG said that various early warning systems are in review. DW added that one of the outcomes of the early warning system review would be that GPM would hold a community forum explaining what the process eg. text messaging.

- ***SSCAD design for lowering dam spillway issued for review and tendering***

PC asked how the lowering of the dam spillway had progressed. DW replied that the designs are well progressed and there is a 3rd party review underway. Additional Geotech work must be undertaken to understand the nature of the foundations of the spillway which will help finalise the design and then GPM will be going to market to tender for the work. DW said GPM is being accepted onto the NSW E-tendering portal, which is where significant tenders will be run..

5. DW then outlined GPM activities since the last CCG meeting. EPA carried out a site visit with their new Regional Director and other Bathurst EPA members. GPM and EPA had a good discussion about where they were at with the Voluntary Management Plan (VMP) which is currently under final review by the EPA. The outcome was that the EPA were pleased with progress to date.
6. DW informed the group that they were working on a Site Master Plan which will facilitate the work of design and strategy behind site closure in the future. This will be an ongoing process and one that will be left open, enabling the potential for different final land-use options. .
7. DW explained that they are finalising the design to improve the stability of the KVAR through new buttress systems. Tendering has already been initiated for this work.
8. DW said that the contaminated land investigations are well and truly under way. The detailed site investigation which is the first round of comprehensive sampling across the site, has been completed and the report is being finalised. A contaminated land site auditor is engaged and is included in this process.
9. DW added that SSCAD closure investigations had been initiated including ash dredging. RG asked where they were conducting the ash dredging. DW replied that one of the options being investigated to fill the dam was to dredge some ash material from the back of the site and relocating it to the front to fill the dam void. This option would fill the 600,000m³ hole instead of paying for quarry materials

Further to filling the dam void is the capping which would take another 3-5 million m³. DW said GPM is looking at potential on-site sources for fill, for example seeking approval to make their own quarry to source the material.

GJ said that rather than just taking the whole side of a mountain away as a quarry, GPM could consider making something attracting like a slot canyon leading to a big

void/space, which could be used as an attraction as a movie set, amphitheatre, abseiling etc..

10. DW said that PG has been trialling several evaporation techniques around the site to try and keep dam and leachate water levels low. GPM's water discharge license is quite restrictive, so the evaporation method of dealing with water levels is important.

11. DW described GPM activities for the next 6 months:

- Ongoing operations and maintenance of site water, sediment and erosion controls, stockpile management and dust suppression, mowing, weed control, site monitoring and security. DW explained that these are all routine operational works that happen on site every day.

Work that is currently being negotiated is:

- Construction of freshwater diversions off the ash dam – conditional approval to proceed has already been granted for this. Final contract negotiations are nearing completion with expected to commence in the coming months.
- Construction of KVAR stabilisation berms – this is going back out to tender after an update of information and design.
- Southern Catchment sedimentation control ponds – this is another environmental control initiative that will be built down through the 'golf course' area to control storm water and sediment load off the escarpment before it is discharged into the river.
- PG will continue water evaporation and treatment investigation and trials.
- Continuing site investigation and design work.

12. DW then announced a break for refreshments.

13. JMP recommenced the meeting with investigations to date and planned next steps:

- he explained that realignment of the creeks is going through the approval process and should get initial feedback back by the end of April;
- diversion dam works underway – GPM recently installed a trench below the diversion dam to monitor seepage which appears to be fresh water from the valley catchment area. ;
- Lidsdale Cut Pond segregation of ground water from surface run-off - investigations and design ongoing and options include putting a liner in the pond area to stop the mixing of surface water and ground water.. - extension of wetlands – this would require the removal of a large volume of ash and extending the current wetland in its place. Evaluation of this option is ongoing.

14. PG presented the next session – Opportunities.

PG said he had attended two National Parks meetings and talked to the group involved in the Newnes Plateau project. He continued that while they were very positive and helpful, they were not willing to commit to joining with GPM at this stage due to other commitments / projects.. PG's idea presented to National Parks was to proceed down Maddox Lane and take the path up to the top of Eagles Nest where there is a track that takes you to the Beecroft track which then leads to the Newnes Plateau.

RG suggested that maybe that route would be suitable to offer the mountain bike group, run by Garry Flynn. PG said he had already contacted Mr Flynn and their group already had too many projects running to take on another at this stage.

PG said that during his conversation with National Parks, they indicated they were not happy with 4WD usage in their area so if we could develop a technical track up on the GPM plateau for 4WD recreational users, this would encourage people to stay off National Park land.

PG said there was an interested party and that talks are ongoing.

GJ added that why not open the plateau up for a luxury accommodation facility, providing incredible views and a unique venue.

It was discussed that this could go together with the technical 4WD track.

15. The meeting concluded at 8pm.