



**NOTES FROM TILLEGRA DAM  
COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP MEETING  
HELD 2 APRIL 2008  
AT MUNNI HOUSE**

The meeting commenced at 6pm.

**Attendees:**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Brett Peterkin | Chairman                                   |
| Tom Boorer     | No Tillegra Dam Group                      |
| Nicole Holmes  | Hunter Water                               |
| Des Hopson     | Above dam area representative              |
| Anne McDonald  | Inundation area representative             |
| Lea Mitchell   | Dungog Shire Council                       |
| Kate Murphy    | Dungog District Chamber of Commerce        |
| Sue Nicholas   | Hunter Water                               |
| Owen Nicholson | Above dam area representative              |
| Russell Pascoe | Hunter Water                               |
| John Rapson    | Dungog Information & Neighbourhood Service |
| Helen Vorlicek | Hunter Water                               |
| John Hooke     | Williams River Water Users Association     |

***ITEM 1: APOLOGIES***

|                  |                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Glenn Wall       | Dungog Shire Council                 |
| Marion Stuart    | Dungog Tourism Advisory Committee    |
| Maureen Kingston | Dungog Historical Society            |
| Linda Bowden     | Below Dam Area representative        |
| Priscilla Mason  | Karuah Local Aboriginal Land Council |
| Steve Lowe       | Dungog Shire Council                 |
| Kevin Young      | Hunter Water                         |

***ITEM 2: CONFIRM NOTES FROM MARCH 2008 MEETING***

The meeting notes from 5 March 2008 were confirmed with the following amendments:

**Item 5c:**

Item 5c of the draft meeting notes has been modified with the addition of the following dot points at the request of Linda Bowden. CRG members agreed with the modification subject to the inclusion of a

statement that the dot points are Linda's view and not those of the CRG:

- *During my time as a senior education officer for the Department of Education and Training, one of my responsibilities was the training of personnel in the 'bullying' process. 'Bullying' is a personal thing. If Sally Corbett has stated that she felt intimidated, scared, or threatened by Brett's comments at the previous meeting, that is her entitlement. No one can make a judgement about how she felt.*
- *Sally's letter went to Kevin Young (HW) and according to Government Department protocols, he should have responded. It was ccd to the Chair as a matter of courtesy. It did not need to be tabled at the March Meeting.*
- *My reading of Sally's letter showed no reflection on TDCRG members. Rather, it was an intended reflection on the actions of the chair.*
- *Glenn Wall has made comment and opinion on actions that occurred outside the TDCRG Meeting. Again, no one can make judgement on how a recipient felt as a result of these actions.*
- *I am not a member of the NTDG but respect their work within the community.*

#### **Matters Arising:**

The updated slides provided by Connell Wagner on their presentation on the Integrated Land Use Plan have replaced the original slides.

#### **ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING**

**220207.1: Onsite Inspection of Proposed Catchment Area by TDCRG. Carried over until May 2008.**

After the consultants have finalised the draft report, arrange an onsite inspection of the proposed catchment area by the TDCRG.

**031007:03: Action: When available, Nicole to arrange for copies of geotech report to be provided to CRG members and placed on Hunter Water's website. Carried over.**

Information to be provided when available, most likely around June 2008.

**031007:12: Action: Nicole Holmes to provide information on contractors hours, road traffic when information becomes available on completion of the environmental assessment. Carried over.**

Information to be provided when available.

**060208:03: Action Kate to provide Sue with further information to be put onto the slides from her presentation which is on HWC's website. Carried over.**

Kate to provide information for slides.



**050308:02: Action: Feedback forms to be sent back to Sue Nicholas by 14 March 2008. Complete**

Feedback forms have been received and forwarded to Connell Wagner.

**050308:03: Action: Kevin Young to forward response to Sally's letter. Complete.**

Letter forwarded by Hunter Water.

**050308:04: Action: The Quart Pot questions to go to all affected landholders in that area – not just those who were at the meeting. Complete.**

Letters forwarded by Hunter Water.

**050308:05: Action: Roland to arrange for slide to be amended. Slide amended and attached to meeting notes. Complete.**

Slide amended.

**050308:06: Action: After receiving feedback from the CRG, the draft land use plan will be amended and then resubmitted to the group. Current timing is either for a summary to be provided to the April meeting or a presentation to the May meeting. Carried over.**

Currently reviewing feedback. Presentation on status of ILUP to May meeting.

**050308:07 Action: Hunter Water to compile a timeline for both the roads and geotech work. Carried over.**

The timeline will be available for the June 2008 meeting.

**050308:08 Action: Hunter Water to write to affected landholders in the Quart Pot Road area advising status regarding the roads. This information will also be included in the April newsletter. Complete.**

Letters forwarded and general information included in April newsletter.

**050308:09 Action: Hunter Water to provide a written response to the NTDG letter of 5 March 2008. Response to be included in CRG meeting papers. Complete.**

Letter forwarded and attached as Item 4b to the April 2008 papers.

**050308:10 Action: Glenn Wall to raise at Council the need for economic opportunities to continue to be driven in the period between when construction of the dam is completed and when it is fully operational. Complete.**

Brett Peterkin informed members that Glenn had advised him this was highlighted to all councillors at the General Management meeting and Business Paper Report. Glenn also advised he raised this issue at the Government Taskforce meeting.



**050308:11 Action: Helen to include item on the TDCRG (members and role) in the next community newsletter. Complete.**

Item included in April newsletter.

#### **ITEM 4: AGENDA ITEMS RAISED BY CRG MEMBERS**

##### **Item 4.1 Letter from Bob Muscat, NDTG**

Brett Peterkin advised that he had received a letter from Bob Muscat of the No Tillegra Dam Group today which included questions for both Glenn Wall and Hunter Water. A written response will be provided in the May 2008 papers.

##### **Item 4.2 Email from Linda Bowden**

Copy of an email from Linda Bowden to Brett Peterkin was provided to each member.

#### **ITEM 5: REPORT ON GOVERNMENT TASKFORCE MEETING**

Brett Peterkin provided the following report back to members summarising outcomes of the second meeting of the Government Taskforce held on 26 March 2008.

##### **Tourism**

An update was provided on planning work and timeframes in relation to the transition zones.

The Hunter Region Tourism Organisation is reviewing its tourism plan for the Hunter. Tillegra Dam and the Barringtons are to be included in this review.

NSW Tourism have advised that a gap analysis and product audit is required. They will provide a brief of what they require and take that brief to Planning Workshop Australia (PWA), Connell Wagner and Hunter Water to ensure that studies are not duplicated. The work that the Economic and Tourism Subgroup have done will be incorporated into the plan.

##### **Resourcing**

The Dungog Council Project Manager position was discussed. This position is to be jointly funded by Department of State & Regional Development (DSRD) and Hunter Water. DSRD are awaiting the formal funding submission from Dungog Council before they can proceed further. It was indicated that this was expected to be finalised by the end of this week.

Nicole Holmes advised that Hunter Water had agreed to the joint funding arrangement.

##### **Roads**

The RTA have provided verbal feedback on the Draft Access Plan prepared by Dungog Council. One of RTA's suggestions was that Council should focus on



bringing one primary route up to an acceptable standard, rather than including all roads.

This also links with the primary route identified by Hunter Water as part of their traffic studies. Nicole Holmes advised that, while Hunter Water's preferred primary route for transporting the bulk of materials will be included in the EAR, other routes may also be used from time to time depending on where materials/equipment are sourced.

It was noted that the RTA had offered assistance to Council in fine-tuning the Access Plan, offering technical advice to get the best outcome for the dollars spent.

Brett Peterkin advised that the Bucketts Way upgrade is being used as a model for the Dungog upgrade. Glenn Wall has been in touch with the local Federal MP in regard to required upgrades and is also seeking support from the appropriate Federal Ministers. The NRMA are also interested in how they can support the Dungog community in regards to this project.

Glenn Wall, Craig Deasey and Brett Peterkin met with the Mayors and GMs of both Port Stephens and Maitland Councils regarding the roads project. Both Councils have advised they are happy to help Dungog Council where possible.

Anne McDonald asked where the funding could come from for tourism planning work. Brett Peterkin advised that a possible avenue might be through DSRD who have recently merged with NSW Tourism. Susan Rowe from DSRD has been invited to attend the next PWA meeting to ensure all parties are aware of the work which is being done.

## **ITEM 6: SUB-GROUP REPORTS**

### **6a Cemetery Subgroup**

Anne McDonald advised that the Cemetery Sub-Group met on 19 March 2008.

It was disappointing to note that finalisation of the Draft Cemetery Relocation Plan (CRP) has been put on hold pending resolution of two key issues. These issues relate to the identification of a site with suitable ground conditions for a new cemetery and resolution of a number of questions relating to potential water quality impacts at the existing cemetery site. These issues are interrelated.

Nicole advised that a meeting with Dr Boyd Dent, an expert in this field, will be held on Monday 7 April 2008, to clarify the position and the way forward.

### **6b Economic and Tourism Subgroup**

Brett Peterkin provided a report in the papers on progress with the Economic and Tourism Sub-group's activities for March. He supplemented his written report with the following:



## Information Forum

Discussion at the E&T Subgroup focused on the planned Tillegra Dam Information Forum. There was enthusiasm to hear from other communities who have experienced similar situations with major infrastructure developments, ie Keepit Dam, Meander Dam, Karuah Bypass. The RTA have advised they will provide contact details for people involved with the Karuah Bypass.

Presenters could include community people affected by similar situations, NSW Tourism, Developers and Property Council, Chamber of Commerce and Council. We are also discussing having a key note speaker. The High School has agreed that the school could be used as the venue. Maureen Jarvis is currently considering a request for students to be involved in the planning and operation of the event.

Brett invited everyone to provide input into the design and planning and to participate in this Forum, which will be open to everyone and is expected to be held in July.

The message from the people at Keepit is to look for opportunities. The Forum will assist the local community by showing what opportunities may exist for Dungog.

A member suggested that the Forum would be a good opportunity to talk about employment opportunities for local businesses and individuals. Members agreed with a suggestion by Hunter Water that a representative of Leightons Contractors, who are currently building the Shannon Creek Dam at Coffs Harbour, could be invited to talk about that project from an employment perspective.

Members agreed that information on the types of training and upskilling in various disciplines would be advantageous because it would give people some lead time if they wanted to obtain the required skills. Identification of the types of skills required would be beneficial to people wanting to be in a position to provide their services if the dam goes ahead.

**Action: Nicole Holmes to discuss with Leightons if they would be prepared to attend the Forum to speak about their experience with regard to employment opportunities on major projects such as the Shannon Creek Dam.**

Nicole provided an update on the contractor registration website that she had mentioned at the last CRG meeting. There have been further discussions with ICN regarding the terms of the contract and Hunter Water was confident that the registration website should be up and running around mid-2008. Information on the registration website could be made available at the Forum.

It was agreed that it might be beneficial to have more than one Forum as the project progressed.

Brett Peterkin noted that it is about the community making the most of possibilities. It was agreed that the community needs to be aware of what positives can eventuate from the Dam if it goes ahead and that this would assist in bringing some balance to the discussion.

## **Tourism Teleconference**

A teleconference with NSW Tourism was held and a gap analysis and product audit will be undertaken.

Brett advised that NSW Tourism sees the Dungog area as an appropriate area for ecotourism.

### **Proposed Education Officer**

In regard to views previously expressed by Linda Bowden regarding a potential Education Officer position, Brett advised that the Economic and Tourism Subgroup had discussed the idea with Maureen Jarvis. Where it goes from here is a matter for the Department of Education and Hunter Water.

Kate advised that this topic had been raised at a recent P&C meeting which she had attended. She had explained the background to the role and that the aim of the position was to provide school children with facts relating to the dam, both for and against. She also pointed out that it would be linked to relevant parts of the school syllabus. If the position ever eventuated, it would be a professional departmental teaching position, not a Hunter Water position.

### **Gloucester Trip**

Brett advised members there was an opportunity to meet with Gloucester Council's Economic Officer to learn about what the Gloucester area has achieved in terms of economic development and opportunities since dairy deregulation. As an example, they have a target to attract new families and businesses to the area each year. A half-day visit to Gloucester is currently being considered.

## ***ITEM 7: FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS***

Members provided a brief outline of their community interaction during the past month.

### **Anne McDonald, Inundation Area representative**

- Emailed and posted out copies of the feedback sheet for the ILUP to constituents and provided information back to Roland Bow
- Attended Cemetery Subcommittee meeting

### **Owen Nicholson - Above dam area representative**

- Attended Cemetery Subcommittee meeting
- Quart Pot Creek letter - meeting
- Provided feedback sheet on ILUP

### **Des Hopson - Above dam area representative**

- Attended Cemetery Subcommittee meeting
- Provided feedback sheet on ILUP
- **Lea Mitchell - Dungog Shire Council**
  - Attended Council meeting where Glenn Wall raised economic issues.



### **John Hooke - Williams River Water Users Association**

- Noted that the Water Sharing Plan is out for public comment. DWE has arranged a community meeting next Wednesday at 6pm at Clarencetown. From his preliminary reading, John didn't see much difference regarding the Williams River, however this may change if the dam does go ahead. Nicole Holmes advised that Hunter Water had been asked to attend the meeting to be available for questions, but not to make a presentation.

Nicole advised that the Plan facilitates growth in Hunter Water's demand for water between now and 2013. At 2013 when water will be available from the dam further investigations will have been completed to determine Hunter Water's allocation. The EAR will indicate potential longer term requirements.

Between now and submission of the EAR to the Department of Planning Hunter Water will be discussing with the Department of Water & Energy, Department of Primary Industry (Agriculture and Fisheries), Department of Environment and Climate Change and the CMA how to meet riparian, stock, environmental and irrigation flow needs, not just on a daily basis, but how also how Hunter Water will transfer flows down the river.

Russell Pascoe noted that there would be still be restrictions in place at the bottom end relating to the operation of the weir pool.

Hunter Water reiterated previous commitments that, once the dam is operational, irrigators downstream will not be any worse off in terms of irrigation rights than they are now.

### **John Rapson , Dungog Information & Neighbourhood Service**

- Attended Economic and Tourism Sub-committee
- Part of phone hook-up with NSW Tourism re gap analysis and product audit.
- John queried whether there was a centralised location/website where local businesses could register their services so that new people in town had somewhere to look when they needed to access a particular service. Hunter Water's database will be specifically related to the Tillegra Dam project, but John saw a need for a more general one for the area generally.

Kate Murphy indicated that she understood Greg Fenwick, Council's Economic Development Officer, was currently working on a directory of services for the shire.

### **Tom Boorer – No Tillegra Dam Group**

- Indicated he was there representing the group

### **Kate Murphy – Dungog District Chamber of Commerce**

- Attended Economic and Tourism Sub-committee
- Distributed CRG information and provided information regarding the Education Officer role at the P&C meeting.



- Will be speaking at the upcoming weekend event organised by the NTDG on potential economic impacts of the dam. This will be held at Wangat Lodge. Will be discussing facts (not for or against). Saw this as a good opportunity for healthy debate.

#### **Brett Peterkin, Chair**

- Attended Economic and Tourism Sub-committee
- Teleconference with NSW Tourism.
- Along with Dungog Council's Mayor and GM, attended meeting with Port Stephens and Maitland Councils Mayors and GMs.
- Contacted Minister Rees' office to ascertain a date for him to visit
- Attended Government Taskforce meeting

#### ***ITEM 8: PROJECT UPDATE***

The project update was taken as read.

John Rapson asked about the proposed width of new roads and whether they would allow for bike/walking tracks. Nicole advised that the width of shoulders was approximately 0.5m and the lane widths for Salisbury Road are 3.5m which would be sufficient to facilitate movement. These widths were also built into the bridges.

#### ***ITEM 9: DRAFT AGENDA –7 MAY 2008***

The draft agenda for 7 May 2008 was accepted.

#### ***ITEM 10: GENERAL BUSINESS***

##### **Department of State and Regional Development - Community Economic Development Conference 2008**

Brett advised members that this conference will be held from 4-6 May 2008.

#### **MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.