

MEETING of the ASSET ENERGY COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
held Friday 26 November 2010

PRESENT: Avril Lockton - Central Coast Community Environment Network
Greg Piper - Mayor, Lake Macquarie Council
Sally Whitelaw - Port Stephens Council
Greg Summerhayes - I&I NSW
Christie Munro - Newcastle CC
Mark Stables - Gosford City Council
Jason Nunn - Recreational Fishing Representative
Brad Warren - Ocean Watch
Nicole Dixon - Wyong Council
Toby Foster - Asset Energy
David Breeze - Asset Energy

APOLOGIES: Paul McMurray - Newcastle City Council (replaced by Christie Munro)
Mark Eisenhauer - Commercial Fishermen's Cooperative
Murray Hams - Commercial Fishermen's Cooperative
Brett Bollinger - Commercial Fishermen's Cooperative
Shayne Wilde - NSW Maritime
Mark McCallum - APPEA
Malcolm Poole - Recreational Fishing Cooperative (arrived late)

Declaration of Interest by the Chair

Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting

- Amendments to be made:

Paul McMurray is a staff person (not councillor) at Newcastle City Council.

Remove Greg Piper's comments regarding the Nature Conservation Council as not accurate.

Simone Meakin's reference should have been to the Geological Survey of NSW.

David Breeze moved the minutes with those corrections

Seconded: Greg Summerhayes

Business Arising

Margaret Macdonald-Hill wrote to the Honourable Steve Whan on the 28th October and the Honourable Martin Ferguson on the 28th October regarding the request to make the Environmental Plan public.

Request for Asset Energy to release the Environment Plan to the CCC was denied.

Toby Foster described the vertical seismic profiling (VSP) intentions during the drilling of New Seaclem-1. This included:

- description of VSP and its function
- varieties of VSP (Advent to utilise a zero-offset VSP)
- nature of the noise from VSP in comparison with underwater noise levels, and known reactions from fauna (avoidance) in an unconfined/unrestricted environment
- description of Advent's VSP program and procedures if cetaceans are observed, underwater noise levels, confined impact, and limited duration outside of peak humpback whale.

General Business

Response to Avril Lockton's queries provided to the CCC Chair November 24th

An approved Oil Spill Contingency Plan is in place.

Asset Energy, as joint title holder and operator of PEP11 / New Seaclem-1 carries liability for any cleanup if necessary, and has demonstrated insurance coverage to I&I NSW.

Current operations are limited to the single exploration well. Forward plans are potentially dependent upon results obtained, but may include further seismic testing and further exploration/appraisal/development wells.

Drilling fluids will use either a seawater based fluid, or a water based mud of no significant toxicity.

Asset Energy anticipates any hydrocarbons encountered will be 'light' and or gas-prone.

Concerns noted regarding limited community consultations that had not included specific groups, e.g. Nature Conservation Council, Port Stephens Council.

Asset confirmed numerous contacts with NCC, Port Stephens Council subsequently invited and represented on the CCC. Additional consultations with Federal Local Members of Parliament.

Reiteration that there is no production licence in place, only the licence to explore for hydrocarbons within PEP11. All exploration activities regulated under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 and subsequent regulations.

Public Summary of Asset Energy's approved Environment Plan for the drilling of New Seaclem-1 was provided to the members of the CCC.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act Referral still pending (subsequently approved 10th December 2010).

Request for improved/fixed agenda for CCC meetings.

Safety exclusion zone of 500m has been gazetted around the drilling location.

Next meeting: 21 February 2011, 10.30am, venue to be advised.

Meeting closed 12:15 pm