

# TXU COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP

## MEETING MINUTES

MEETING	TXU CLG MEETING		MEETING NUMBER	4/2004
HELD AT	TXU SITE, WOLLONGONG		DATE	18/08/04
PROJECT	TALLAWARRA			
ATTENDEES	John Osseweyer	Scout Group		
	Doug Prosser	Lake Illawarra Authority		
	Andrew Knowlson	Duck Creek Catchment Group		
	Greg Newman	EPA		
	Rita Webb	Dapto Chamber of Commerce		
	Chris Brandis	Illawarra Bird Observers Club		
	Trevor Knowles	Lessee Representative		
	Glenda Clayton	Lessee		
	Graham Dowers	TXU		
	Nicola Ryan	TXU		
	Ian Kinlough	TXU		
	Brian Elton	Elton Consulting		
	Brendan Blakeley	Elton Consulting		
PRESENTERS	Michelle Perry	Department of Primary Industries		
APOLOGIES	Ray Chapman	Winten Group		
	Graham Towers	DIPNR		
	Rod Oxley	WCC		
DISTRIBUTION	To all invitees			

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ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	ACTION	DATE
1.0	<b>WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b>		
1.1	<i>The meeting commenced at 5.30 PM. Brian Elton welcomed all those present. Apologies were received from :</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rod Oxley</li><li>• Ray Chapman</li><li>• Graham Towers</li></ul>		
1.2	<i>A motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was moved by Doug Prosser and seconded by Chris Brandis.</i>		
2.0	<b>Proposal to explore the removal of Duck Creek Crossing - Michelle Perry</b>		
2.1	<b>MP:</b> There is a concrete structure crossing Duck Creek on the TXU site. It prevents the upstream migration of a range of Australian fish species that cannot jump or swim through the overflow pipe in the weir. <p>The crossing is no longer used for cattle or pedestrian access, as it is immediately adjacent to a functioning bridge. The structure is not licensed with DIPNR.</p> <p>Consistent with a NSW wide policy to restore links within estuarine systems Fisheries would like to explore options for removing the crossing. We are at the first stage of the process. The next steps in the process would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussions with relevant government agencies</li><li>• Further investigations will be needed and a range of stakeholders will be consulted.</li><li>• All approval requirements will need to be identified and met.</li><li>• Appropriate mitigation measures would be employed.</li><li>• The debris would be disposed of in an authorised dumping area on the TXU site.</li><li>• Bank stabilisation works and additional planting along the riparian corridor would also be undertaken.</li></ul>		
2.2	<b>GD:</b> Does the barrier create the change from salt to freshwater? <b>CLG:</b> <i>No the transition point is further downstream near the small island. The weir is well into the freshwater zone.</i> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>The overflow pipe in the crossing is very high. If it is removed I expect that it would alter the level of the stream significantly.</i></p> <b>MP:</b> We will need to talk with DIPNR about the levels of the creek. Our understanding is that there is one upstream operator who is licensed to pump water. They use a significant amount of water and we would need to ensure that their capacity is not affected by the removal of the crossing. <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>Currently there is a large amount of silt built up behind the weir.</i></p>		

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	<p><b>CLG:</b> <i>There may also be recreational users such as canoeists who would be affected by any change in the upstream water level.</i></p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>Has a survey of levels been done yet? I think there was a survey conducted by Wollongong University at some stage. If the water level were to decrease; we would need to ensure that there are pools left for habitat.</i></p> <p><b>MP:</b> Yes we are very aware of this issue and the need to preserve an adequate water level.</p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>On the land I lease the creek is very low. It has had no significant flows for some years. If the weir is removed I can see the water just disappearing into the lake. What water there is upstream from the weir is in part overflow from the dam near the woolshed. It may be possible that a broken pipe is feeding this dam.</i></p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>Does the structure have any heritage value?</i></p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>It most probably dates back to the 1920s and was built to serve the few houses that were located on this part of the site.</i></p> <p><b>MP:</b> We doubt that the crossing has any heritage significance however this will be a part of our further investigations.</p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>Is the removal program to be funded by the Government or the landowner?</i></p> <p><b>MP:</b> Money for this type of work is available from the National Heritage Trust and the Environmental Trust. Fisheries could also provide some assistance. Generally the costs are split 50/50 with the owners of the site or local Councils. We would combine a range of funding sources according to various work program priorities. One of the advantages of doing this work soon is that it could use earth moving equipment that TXU will have on site thereby lowering costs.</p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>Planting of the creek bank may mean that stock will need to be removed for some time. Also when the creek floods, the trees right on the riverbank seem to make erosion worse. The floods uproot the trees taking the banks with them.</i></p> <p><b>MP:</b> Planting of the banks was only a suggestion we would need to seek proper advice about this. It may be the case that the riparian revegetation would need to extend beyond just the bank.</p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>Yallah TAFE has a team that undertakes planting and bush regeneration work.</i></p> <p><b>GD:</b> David Brookfield (from Yallah TAFE) did a lot of work relating to this site during the Pacific Power days.</p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>At the moment boats come from the lake to a long way up the creek just near the island, before the crossing to fish using nets. Is this legal? It is always worse at the weekends.</i></p> <p><b>MP:</b> Are they commercial or recreational?</p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>Commercial operators. The last time I saw them was 2 months ago.</i></p> <p><b>MP:</b> Then Fisheries needs to know. I will inform the local officers that this is happening.</p>		

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2.3	<p><b>CLG:</b> <i>The Duck Creek Landcare group encourage any activity that improves water quality and flows and enhances local riparian vegetation. A strategy was developed by Grant Mackay to support The Duck Creek Landcare group's application for funding. Landcare has also used the strategy he prepared to encourage and support landowners in improving vegetation corridors etc. From our view the removal of the structure is positive but Duck Creek has had no flows for years. Maybe you need to consider the option of removing the structure but replacing it with a riffle bed to maintain the pool level whilst allowing fish to migrate.</i></p> <p><b>GD:</b> Graham Mackay is still involved peripherally with the TXU site. He was the NSW PPI representative who signed off on the EIS.</p> <p><b>BE:</b> Are there any other groups that you feel need to be consulted regarding this proposal?</p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>I would suggest the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority. I understand that they are about to release information on funding opportunities to provide incentives for local landowners to undertake improvement works along Duck Creek.</i></p>		
2.4	<p><b>MP:</b> Thank you very much for all your valuable input. We will now take on board your suggestions and also work out the costs for this project.</p> <p><b>BE:</b> What is the rough process and timetable for moving forward on this matter.</p> <p><b>GD:</b> TXU will be largely guided by the community regarding this proposal. We are open to the Fisheries proposal as they presented a compelling case for this type of work, however there is a range of considerations to be taken into account. If the community, the LIA and other bodies are in favour and the studies show it is environmentally and financially feasible we will work with Fisheries to restore the link in Duck Creek.</p> <p><b>MP:</b> Thank you Graham. Our next phase is to continue consultation with relevant agencies including DIPNR, WCC and other stakeholders. We also need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assess all applicable documentation.</li><li>• Prepare an EMP that outlines safeguards and mitigation measures.</li><li>• From the issues raised tonight engage a geomorphologist to provide some advice about water levels.</li><li>• Assess the potential costs of works.</li></ul> <p>If eventually the proposal is found to be feasible it could take anywhere between 2-7 months.</p> <p>If it is appropriate a representative of Fisheries could come to your next meeting and update you on the progress of the proposal.</p> <p>Graham Dowers thanked Michelle for her presentation.</p>		

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3.0	<b>Site Civil Works: Graham Dowers - TXU</b>		
3.1	<p><b>GD:</b> Stage One works are nearing completion. Remaining tasks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Running a communication cable from the tanks on Mt Brown down to the existing offices.</li><li>• Installation of security systems, fences and gates.</li><li>• The detailed landscaping plan is nearing completion and will commence for the main site area once the above works are finalised. Copies of the draft plan were made available for comment.</li></ul> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>I'm very pleased to see that most of the tree species are indigenous.</i></p> <p><b>GD:</b> Thank you for that. Noel Corkery from URS is very reputable. We have chosen species that can survive on natural water supply alone once they are established.</p> <p><b>GD:</b> We understand that the pipeline permit is imminent. A few surveys are yet to be undertaken and we are discussing consent for these with relevant landowners. Other surveys to be completed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• acid sulphate soils.</li><li>• some heritage survey work.</li></ul> <p><b>GD:</b> The market assessment and plant and network analysis is continuing. We will need to present this to the new owners before it can be finalised.</p>		
4.0	<b>Sale of TXU: Nicola Ryan– TXU</b>		
4.1	<p><b>NR:</b> The relevant regulators including the ACCC have approved the sale of TXU to Singapore Power in Australia. The new owners are committed to continuing down the current business path. The Australian business is going to be run on its own with the existing management structure and personnel remaining.</p> <p><b>CLG:</b> <i>Are they still committed to building the power station.</i></p> <p><b>GD:</b> Yes the issue is when. We need to await the outcome of the market process and development of the plant design. Time for the preparation of tender documentation is also required.</p> <p><b>NR:</b> As part of the new ownership arrangements we are preparing new documents for the lessees. The new agreements will be finalised soon with all existing tenants being offered a one year lease.</p> <p><b>Lessee:</b> <i>That is good to hear.</i></p>		
5.0	<b>Lake Illawarra Foreshore Works: Nicola Ryan -TXU</b>		
5.1	<p><b>NR:</b> TXU is in ongoing discussions with the LIA regarding the plans to develop the foreshore. The LIA is aligned with our goal to ensure open public access to the lake and provide suitable facilities to support the access. The LIA is developing a staged approach to providing such facilities; at this stage the main focus is to upgrade the more readily accessible areas.</p>		

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	<i>Doug Prosser (Chair LIA): It is very early days yet.</i>		
	<b>NR:</b> We look forward to working constructively with the LIA on this matter and hope to have some concepts to show at future CLG meetings.		
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Site Coordinators Update: Ian Kinlough - TXU</b>		
<b>6.1</b>	<b>IK:</b> Recent incidents around the site include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minor vandalism near the water tanks.</li><li>• Abandoned cars along the entrance road.</li><li>• There is also some additional cleaning up required on the part of Sydney Water following recent repairs to the pipeline.</li></ul>		
	<b>IK:</b> We will address weed and vermin control further at the next meeting. It seems the police aren't too keen on shooting in proximity to a built up area.		
	<b>GD:</b> TXU are yet to determine a definitive approach to fox control.		
	<i>Lessee: I have not seen too many foxes of late.</i>		
	<i>CLG: I know the Rural Lands Protection Board prefer baiting.</i>		
	<i>Lessee: Does TXU object to lessees shooting foxes on their particular leases.</i>		
	<b>GD:</b> We have not arrived at a position on this. We are currently sticking with the baiting program as our method of control. We need to assess our liability position, so will take your question on notice.		
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Survey : Brian Elton – Elton Consulting</b>		
<b>7.1</b>	<b>NR:</b> A stakeholder communication survey has been prepared to assist TXU to engage more effectively with a range of stakeholder groups, including the CLG. There is a core group of committed CLG members regularly attending meetings and TXU appreciates their contribution to the CLG process. We want to know what would encourage others participation and how relevant are the minutes to their organisation. Any comments on the survey questions are welcomed to assist with the broader survey group.		
	<b>BE:</b> For this group, what other things could we do to make participation more efficient or rewarding?		
	<i>CLG: Make more use of email.</i>		
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Next steps/meeting dates: Brian Elton</b>		
	Brian thanked all those present for their participation in this evening's meeting.		
	<b>NEXT MEETINGS:</b>		
	<b><u>20 OCTOBER 2004, 5.30pm at TXU Tallawarra Energy Facility Site.</u></b>		
	<b>The most likely date for the final 2004 (Christmas) meeting is</b>		
	<b>24 November 2004. Please add this to your calendar!</b>		
	If you have any questions in relation to these minutes please contact Brendan Blakeley at <b>Elton Consulting</b> .		
	<b>Tel.</b> 02 9387 2600		
	<b>Fax.</b> 02 9387 2557		
	<b>Email.</b> brendan@elton.com.au		