

## Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Location:** Redbank Power Station

**Date:** 27 July 2022

**Attendees:** Neil White (NW) - Community Member  
Sheree Klasen (SK) – Community Member  
Costa Tsiolkas (CT) – GM Verdant Energy Hub  
Angela van der Kroft (AK) – HSE Manager Verdant Energy Hub

**Apologies:** Sue Moore – Singleton Council  
Nicole Furness – Community Member  
Anita White – Community Member  
Angela Penton – Community Member

***The meeting was declared open at 10:00 AM.***

### **1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting held on the 26 May 2021 were accepted as correct.

### **2. Apologies**

Sue Moore, Anita White, Nicole Furness and Angela Penton have sent in their apologies

No response was received from Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr (Singleton Council) or the EPA.

### **3. Presentation on Current Plant Status**

CT provided a description of the existing plant and briefed the Committee members on the plant history and current status, as per the attached presentation

**NW** asked if treated pine would burn in the fluidised bed boiler.

**CT** explained that it would burn as long as it doesn't contain copper, lead, zinc or other heavy metals which have the potential to produce unwanted emissions and also damage the boiler, which was not designed for a waste to energy facility. Verdant Earth Technologies are currently undertaking studies where various samples of waste timber are chipped and combusted to determine the impact of contaminants and whether they may be suitable as fuel sources. This fuel is not intended to be consumed in the furnace until such times as testing has been completed and a recommendation presented to and accepted by the EPA.

**NW** stated that his biggest concern as a community member was the potential for an increase in traffic through Singleton adding to current congestion problems.

**CT** noted that fuel delivered to the Verdant Energy Hub Site was most likely to come from the Taree area or from West and/or South of site. He stated that it is unlikely that delivery trucks will have cause to come through Singleton as there are no sources of biomass fuel in that direction.

#### **4. Presentation of Plans Going Forward**

CT presented Verdant Earth Technologies' plans going forward, as per the attached presentation.

**NW** wondered if the overland conveyor that was previously used for fuel deliveries to the site would be retained.

**CT** explained that that infrastructure was owned by Yancoal's Mount Thorley Warkworth Mine.

**NW** asked what the capacity of the stockpile is when using biomass.

**CT** stated that due to biomass volume and weight the stockpile would hold enough biomass to run the plant for 4 days, which is reduced from the 15 days that we had for coal.

**SK** queried the direction in which traffic would leave from the site under new biomass delivery regime.

**CT** confirmed that all vehicles leaving site would turn left onto Long Point Rd, ensuring that no additional traffic would travel through Gouldsville, which is in line with the current Development Consent held for the site.

**NW** questioned the impact of rain on the biomass stockpile.

**CT** confirmed that the performance calculations for the plant were based on the biomass fuel feed being 25% moisture with a calorific value (CV) of 19 MJ/kg while the tailings previously used as fuel was around 30% ash and 35% moisture with a CV of 20 MJ/kg which is comparable to biomass. He then explained that ash and moisture content of a fuel effect its CV so, given practical constraints of being unable to feed additional fuel into the system, if the stockpile was to get wet the same amount of fuel would be burnt resulting in less power output.

**SK** asked about how far along the technology is for Hydrogen fuelled vehicles.

**CT** noted that it is well developed and is currently being trialled in Australia, both with buses in Sydney and Melbourne and a fleet of H<sub>2</sub> cars in Canberra.

**NW** wondered if the modular electrolyzers include tanks or compressors.

**CT** verified that they did not, however the site already has electricity, compressors and demineralised water available so that capital investment for these peripheral items required to commence producing Hydrogen would be

lower as existing plant and equipment can be used. Storage tanks will be needed to accommodate the Hydrogen produced.

**NW** asked if water use would be increased following the commencement of Hydrogen production.

**CT** provided assurance that no additional water would need to be drawn from the Hunter River for the project meaning that our original allocation of 3400 ML annually would suffice.

NW wondered why Verdant were planning to install a battery storage system.

**CT** replied that it was a business decision since a battery storage system can be built and commissioned relatively quickly to demonstrate Verdant Earth Technologies' commitment to joining the electricity market.

#### **5. Concerns Raised by Community Members**

**NW** asserted that as a member of the Singleton community, he has real concerns about the number of ongoing job opportunities available in the area to allow it to remain a vibrant and active community.

**CT** confirmed that once restarted, approximately 60 full time staff would be directly employed on site with a further 800 indirect full time jobs coming from the supply chain and services to the business. He estimated that around 200 employees would be required during the recommissioning of the existing plant. These numbers do not include contractors and staff required during the construction of the Hydrogen Production facility which, when operational, will require at least a further 5 full time direct employees.

#### **6. Matters to be Discussed at the Next CCC Meeting**

None raised at this stage.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

No additional business to report.

#### **8. Next meeting**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday 26 October 2022 at 10:00 AM.

***The meeting was declared closed at 11:15 AM.***