

Gloucester Exploration Project Community Consultative Committee - Annual Report 2022

Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Gloucester Exploration Project	Reporting Period:	March 2021 – March 2022
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews	Proponent Contact:	Matt Morgan

1. Executive Summary

In 2006, Gloucester Resources Limited (GRL) was granted three exploration licences (EL6523, EL6524 & EL6563) which covered an overall area of approximately 112km². The majority of the area covered by the exploration licences traversed the western side of the Gloucester Basin in NSW with a small section on the eastern side of the basin south east of Gloucester. Following the granting of the three exploration licences, the company initiated a program of land acquisition and/or negotiated agreements with landowners to allow more detailed coal exploration to proceed and commenced limited exploration activities.

One of the conditions (#54) of the exploration licence required the establishment and operation of a Community Consultative Committee requiring:

- a) This committee is to be chaired by an independent person to be appointed by the Minister
- b) The committee is to meet regularly in Gloucester as determined by the chairperson.
- c) The committee must include a representative nominated by Mid-Coast Council.
- d) The committee must include at least three community representative to be elected at the initial meeting.
- e) The licence holder shall bear the costs of the hire of the meeting venue and related incidental costs.
- f) The licence holder shall pay the chairperson's costs.

Accordingly, the CCC was first established 2006 and operates under a separate charter, as approved at the time by the Minister for Industry (now under the Minister for the Department of Regional NSW, Resource Operations, Mining Exploration and Geoscience (MEG), with the current incumbent being The Honourable Paul Toole MP.

Since the ELs' approval, the company has continued to consult with the members of the CCC and the broader community of Gloucester as required

The CCC comprises of the following membership:

- Three local community representatives
- One MidCoast Council delegate
- Two Stakeholder Group representatives (Advance Gloucester and the Gloucester Business Chamber)
- Two company representatives; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

This CCC was dissolved for a short time in 2014, however, in December 2015 the committee was reconvened under the chair of Lisa Andrews. Since this time there have been regular quarterly meetings to inform the community of the activities of the ELs' as

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well as the proposed Rocky Hill Coal mine (RHCM). This development application for RHCM involved mining of up to 2.5Mtpa of ROM coal for export and planned to employ up to 150 people locally. The RHCM application was recommended for refusal by the Department of Planning to the Independent Planning Commission, which subsequently refused the application. The determination was appealed by the proponent to the NSW Land and Environment Court, where the decision was upheld in December 2017.

As a result of this decision, Gloucester Resources withdrew its renewal application on 20 April 2021 for EL6523 which related to the RHCM project, subsequently, resulting in its expiration.

On 2nd December 2021 GRL Resources sold its remaining tenements to Mineral X Pty Ltd, who subsequently changed its name in March 2022 to First Nations Minerals and Energy Pty Ltd.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

In this reporting period, the CCC met at a reduced frequency whilst GRL considered its future in Gloucester. Only one meeting was held on 4 June 2021. At that meeting GRL Resources provided an update on:

- its exploration activities
- the renewal applications for the remaining two ELs (6524 & 6563)
- the rehabilitation security for EL 6563
- land management and property sales in the area
- the future of this CCC moving forward.

During this reporting period there were no site visits undertaken or Joint CCC's held.

The CCC is an effective communication forum between the community, the Council and the company. It fulfils its objectives under the Department's charter and has a diverse membership, representing the broader community.

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES RAISED BY THE CCC THROUGHOUT THE REPORTING PERIOD AND ANY ACTION TAKEN

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Issue 1	Future of this CCC, given the refusal of the RHCM.	Issue tabled and discussed with Minister's representative at the 4/6/21 CCC. Members resolved to continue with the CCC at a reduced frequency (bi-annually) for a further 12 months pending the renewal of the exploration licences and further exploration activities. After which, a decision would be made at the end of this period on the future of the CCC.

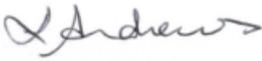
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Issue 2	Chemical analysis of coal encountered as a result of the drilling program at Woods Road.	GRL took this request on notice.
Issue 3	Update on further exploration activities	Ongoing.

3. Focus for next 12 months

With the sale of GRL's remaining shares to First Nations Minerals and Energy Pty Ltd, a meeting is proposed to be held in June 2022 with the new owners, who will brief the CCC members on their future plans for the ELs/tenements:

- Review the potential of the Woods Road coal resource
- Conduct to cored holes and 20 shallow LOX line drill holes in EL6524
- Continued Updates to be provided to the CCC
- Continued regulatory reporting as part of the EL licence requirements.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	6 April 2022