

Mount Bold Dam Safety Upgrade Reference Group

Project Name	Mount Bold Dam Safety Upgrade					
Date	28/05/2020		Time	06:00pm-8:00pm		
Location.	Webex online meeting		Meeting no.	1		
Facilitator	Selene Seet		Note taker	Amelia Laoratana		
Attendance Ab = Absent Ap = Apologies P = Present	Peter Watton, Friends of Scott Creek Conservation Park (FSCCP)	P	Luke Price, Natural Resources Management Board (NRM)	P	Ingrid Franssen, Department of Environment and Water (DEW)	Ap
	Shaun Thomas, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	P	Pru Fowles, Clarendon Community Association (CCA)	P	David Trebilcock, Stormwater Management Authority (SMA)	Ap
	Morgan Ellingham, City of Onkaparinga (CoO)	P	Wayne Henkel, Old Noarlunga Resident Association (ONCRA)	Ap	Tim Jury, Nature Conservation Society of SA/Threatened Plant Action Group (NCSSA/TPAG)	Ap
	Richard Dekker, City of Onkaparinga (CoO)	P	Amelia Hurren, Bush for Life/Trees for Life (BFL/TFL)	Ab	Daniel Duval, Botanic Gardens of SA (BG)	Ab
	Adam Schutz, Native Vegetation Council (NVC)	Ap	Michael Field, Aboriginal Partnerships Co-ordinator (AMLR)	Ab	Nadine Kilsby, Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board (AMLR NRM)	Ap
	Eric Von Wielligh, SA Water (SAW)	P	Peter Doumouras, SA Water (SAW)	P	Selene Seet, SA Water (SAW)	P
	Darrell Hamlyn, SA Water (SAW)	P	Amelia Laoratana, SA Water (SAW)	P		

1 Welcome and introductions

Meeting opened with introductions around the table.

As it was the first meeting of the Reference Group no previous meeting summaries were presented.

Apologies are noted as above, with Old Noarlunga Resident Association representative unable to attend at late notice due to technology issues.

2 Terms of Reference

Prior to the meeting, SA Water circulated draft Terms of Reference to group members. These were tabled at the meeting. The Terms of Reference were accepted by members with no further comment.

During discussion, Aboriginal representation on the Reference Group was queried. SA Water advised that a meeting with Kaurna representatives is being arranged to establish the most

appropriate way to engage with Traditional Owners in the project. This may include inviting a Kurna representative to join the group.

The group was consulted on times for future meetings. It was suggested by a participant to start meetings at 6:30pm to accommodate those who work during the day. Most attendees indicated that this would be suitable.

3 Project presentation

SA Water Project Manager presented a powerpoint presentation on the Mount Bold Dam Safety Upgrade project. Technical issues were experienced with video streaming of the ABC media interview at the end of the presentation. A copy of the presentation slides and link to the ABC story was agreed to be circulated with the meeting summary.

Discussion

A summary of the discussion, including questions and responses occurred as follows:

A participant noted that many people were not aware that the dam was closed for maintenance works last weekend. It was also highlighted that community would enjoy the opportunity to see the dam being drained. SA Water responded that during the drainage and construction works, it is unsafe for visitors to be on the viewing platform and around the area. The dam will be available to visitors shortly and SA Water will look to improve closure notifications in future.

A participant enquired about long term plans for the dam, once the current maintenance works are completed and if the dam would need to be drained again at any point. SA Water said that drainage works have reduced the likelihood of needing to drain the dam again during construction, although some works will require lowering levels of the reservoir.

A participant commented that it was positive to see the river downstream of Clarendon Weir being flushed. SA Water noted the Onkaparinga River environmental flows (e-flows) trial which is an ongoing program in collaboration with the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board (AMLR NRMB). The recent high intensity flush carried out aims to mimic the changing of season, and SA Water brought forward the 'annual flush' as part of the drainage works.

A participant commented that it would be useful to know when project activities such as the drainage works were occurring. SA Water advised that an email was sent to all members of the Reference Group, including Council representatives, to inform of the drainage works. SA Water will continue to work with the community and Reference Group members to ensure they are kept informed of project activities ahead of time.

A participant enquired about anticipated vegetation clearances, particularly likely impacts to flora and fauna of conservation significance and what work SA Water has done around identifying this to date. SA Water advised they had so far completed initial flora and fauna assessments based on the concept design, which were undertaken over a 12 month period to account for seasonal changes. The assessment has identified three Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act listed fauna species, and eight state listed species have been recorded. No EPBC Act listed flora communities or species have been identified, however five state listed flora species were recorded and one provisional state listed plant community is located within the southern part of the reserve [Note: a separate attachment with a summary of findings - *Mountt Bold Dam Safety Upgrade – Preliminary Flora and Fauna Findings* - is provided with this summary].

There will be further flora/fauna assessments undertaken as preferred options are progressed to better understand impacts, and these will also focus on key access points around the dam. SA Water acknowledged that the reservoir reserve has high biodiversity value and will work to implement best practice principles to minimise environmental impacts where

possible, such as upgrading access tracks already disturbed. The project will require Native Vegetation Act clearance approval and implementation of offsets as well as consideration relating to a referral under the EPBC Act.

A participant queried the feedback given by SA Water during a presentation given to the Clarendon Community Association earlier this year on 5 February, regarding traffic congestion around Clarendon and the need to look at alternative access when Mount Bold is closed, as people tend to head to Clarendon Weir as an alternative. SA Water noted the comment and advised that they are currently looking at temporary access to the southern rim of the dam during construction. The project will also look at alternative long term recreational access as part of the broader reservoir access program and consultation process, which there will be opportunities to input into.

4 Interest areas

SA Water facilitated discussion around the table to allow each participant the opportunity to raise specific areas of interest to assist in developing the agendas for future meetings. The following interest areas and topics were identified:

- Access to Mount Bold to view the water spilling over the dam wall
- Congestion issues around Clarendon Weir when Mount Bold is closed
- Access to walking trails around Mount Bold and Clarendon Weir
- Better notification for reservoir closures and to inform potential flooding over the Clarendon Ford
- Information around threatened species, ecological communities, flora and fauna including impacts to the aquatic environment during upgrade; a participant noted that a colleague at Adelaide Mount Lofty Natural Resources Management had data available from surveyed sites relating to birds and other species
- Longer term public access and potential impacts/activities that may have a negative impact to the environment around Mount Bold
- Funding arrangements to include flood mitigation in the upgrade design
- Engagement with Aboriginal community group/s especially with perception that the river is not healthy, and therefore potential impacts need to be considered (potentially due to lack of understanding about e-flows - possible education and earlier engagement required)
- Results of ecological studies made available
- Details around Kangaroo Creek project and any lessons learnt, especially around potential local government funding arrangements
- The City of Onkaparinga has a capital works program with projects including walking trails and would like to see potential integration with Mount Bold
- Information around flora and fauna drawing on similar species recorded from the adjacent Scott Creek Conservation Park; impacts to chestnut-rumped-heathren, bandicoot, bassian thrush (reference made to the bird banding program)
- There are Bush for Life sites within Mountt Bold reserve which Trees for Life volunteers are involved with and have completed work on, similar to the work done by Trees for Life volunteers at the Electranet substation nearby
- Inputting into the reservoir access process, and similar to Myponga Reservoir would like to see walking trails especially around already disturbed areas/low biodiversity value

- Activities during construction requiring licenses/permits for example: concrete batching, any dredging at base of dam works, air quality management, dust/noise controls, water quality management i.e. earthworks drainage, waste management would like to see the application of mitigation hierarchy to avoid/reuse/recycle as much as possible (keeping EPA informed and consulted during planning).

5 Next meeting

A meeting summary will be distributed to members along with a copy of the presentation slides and a link to the ABC news story. The final version of the Terms of Reference will also be provided.

SA Water proposed that the Reference Group meet on a monthly basis and the group agreed for the next meeting to be held on Thursday 25 June at 6:30pm via Webex.

With no further business, SA Water thanked participants for their time in attending the first meeting of the Reference Group and closed the meeting at 7:45pm.

Open Action Items Register

No.	Action	By Whom	Date Raised	Date Due	Status
1.	Circulate meeting summary along with presentation slides and link to ABC news story	SA W	28/05/20	11/06/20	
2.	Provide final Terms of Reference (ToR) to group members	SA W	28/05/20	11/06/20	
3.	Provide copy of <i>Mount Bold Dam Safety Upgrade – Preliminary Flora and Fauna Findings</i>	SA W	28/05/20	11/06/20	
4.	SA Water to follow up on Aboriginal engagement and representation for reference group	SA W	28/05/20	25/06/20	
5.	Acceptance of ToR by group members at next reference group meeting	SA W	28/05/20	25/06/20	