

MEETING MINUTES

Narrabri Gas Project (NGP)

Biodiversity Advisory Group (BAG)

Meeting # 2

DATE / TIME

16 November
2021 9.30am

LOCATION

Santos meeting room
Maitland Street, Narrabri

FACILITATOR

Garry West

MINUTE TAKER

Trish Dandridge

ATTENDEES

- ◆ Garry West (Independent Chair)
- ◆ Dan Watts (EcoLogical Australia)
- ◆ Kathryn Hamilton (Community Member)
- ◆ Ken Flower (Community Member)
- ◆ Patrick Tap (Independent Expert) (VC)
- ◆ Isaac Mamott (Independent Expert)(Phone)
- ◆ Trudy Staines (Community Member) (VC)
- ◆ Samantha Wynn (BCD Representative) (VC)
- ◆ Cassie Hay (Santos – Senior Environment Adviser) (VC)
- ◆ Steve Phillips (Independent Expert)
- ◆ Malcolm Talbot (Community Member)
- ◆ Todd Dunn (Santos)

APOLOGIES

- ◆ NIL

Discussions

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
1. Welcome	The Chair welcomed the Advisory group and new member, Malcolm Talbot as an additional community representative.
Declaration of interest	The Chair asked if there were any new declarations of interest. Nil.
Recording of minutes	The Chair asked members if there was any objection to the recording of the minutes for secretariat purposes with the minute's audio being deleted once the minutes were final and approved. There was no objection.
Actions outstanding	Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted with no changes. Arrange out of session meetings for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koala research proposal • Feral pest management (cat and fox culling) – deferred to Phase 2. STO remain committed to continue working with LLS / FCNSW / landholders to progress pest programs outside of the current Management Plans. This action will be carried forward and depending upon feedback, may be a separate session for appropriate parties and include parties such as DPI and FCNSW
2. Presentation (Cassie)	Presentation 2: Santos presented a presentation (as attached). Agenda items included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santos update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pest Management program sponsorship

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NGP Development Consultation Schedule ● Update status of management plans (including consultation process) ● Introduction to consultation draft plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biodiversity Management Plan ▪ Biodiversity Offset Strategy ▪ Pest Plant and Animal Control Protocol ▪ Koala Research Proposal ● Next steps ● General Business
<p>3. Key topics discussed and questions raised</p>	<p>General comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Santos is requesting feedback within four weeks. If you need more time, please notify Cassie through the Chair. ● Feedback to be concise, state the reason for the feedback and the objective. ● In relation to feral cats, there is a lure that may be used where the cats get sprayed, and they then groom themselves and expire. This may be an effective way to manage the numbers of feral cats, but this lure may still be in trial phase, and you may be able to seek approval to use it. This may be a consideration for phase 2. <p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Q. In relation to pest management and feral animals – The biggest problem for the Pilliga is feral cats and foxes. Because Santos is having people in there everyday, which could make trapping possible and should be considered. Has this progressed any further?. ● A. Santos responded no, as a feral cat control program cannot contribute to its offset obligations under its consent conditions. This can be considered for Phase 2 of the project in consultation with LLS / FCNSW / landholders. ● Q. In terms of the finalised footprint and the compilation for the offset credits, what are Santos going to do in terms of the final survey for flora that can only be done at certain times of the year? ● A. The micro siting targets late September to early October for the flowering orchids and other species. Presence is assumed based on modelling in the EIS to calculate total impacts. ● Ecologists survey a 200 x 200-metre site around the proposed well locations and a 24-meter flow line corridor, twice the actual development footprint, and provide recommended micro-sited locations. Once this has been done, the aboriginal cultural heritage advisory representatives walk country to ensure there are no cultural places or objects within the footprint. This takes priority over the ecological values. ● Q. What is being done about the decline in animals (fauna habitat)? There has been a decline in the number of birds and animals (high tree and ground birds, macropods). How much land clearing has affected the area? ● A. In terms of identifying fauna habitat, hollow bearing trees etc. are in the avoidance hierarchy. Threatened species are priorities for avoidance. The monitoring program (which is part of the biodiversity plan) will pick these up. The project has been designed to minimise disturbance by using existing roads and cleared areas where possible to reduce impacts on flora and fauna. A procedure is in place which includes having a fauna spotter or ecologist on site to ensure there is no fauna within the area of activity. ● Q. Are you planning on using computer recognition or people to analyse soundscape recordings? And are you planning on building a library with the information? ● A. Yes. The plan is to build a program using machine learning and a sound library to detect target species from the recording as there is going to be an immense amount of data. ● Q. How do you communicate the plan, in layman’s terms, for the general

community?

- A. Santos will consider developing a factsheet to communicate actions and information within the plan and how it affects people/what it means.
- Q. Are offsets required at a one-to-one ratio?
- A. No. Under the old and new offset schemes, the ratio of offsets to impact area is closer to the order of 4 – 7:1 offset to impact ratios. The estimated total areas to account for the ecosystem credit requirements are highlighted within the offset strategy.
- Q. In the Koala population, what is the prevalence of the disease that kills them?
- A. Disease is low in the population.
- Q. Why is the Koala given special consideration in the conditions compared to other species?
- A. Koalas have a lot of community interest and there has been decline in koalas in the Pilliga. Other animals still fall under the threatened species avoidance strategies, pre-clearing/clearing procedures and monitoring program.
- Q. How do you relocate animals to a new habitat?
- A. They are usually relocated to an adjacent area, close to their usual habitat. There may be individual impacts but populations of that animals being impacted by relocation will be a very small percentage. It is anticipated that less than 2% of habitat will be removed for any one species within the project area.

Actions

NO.	ACTIONS	ACTION BY	DUE DATE
1	Arrange out of session meetings for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koala research proposal 	Cassie Hay	December 2021
2	Presentation to be circulated to members after the meeting	Chair	November 2021
3.	Release of rehabilitation plan	Santos	January
4.	Feedback due	BAG	17 December 2021

Next Meeting

15 or 16th February 2022.