

SHIRE OF WILLIAMS

MINUTES FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON WEDNESDAY

3RD MARCH 2015

BUSINESS

To consider an application from Great Southern Gypsum to conduct a trial on Lot 9000 Albany Highway Williams.

1.0 OPENING

1.1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Shire President, John Cowcher declared the meeting open at 6.02pm.

1.2 ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

2.0 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

2.1 PRESENT

Cr John Cowcher President

Cr Richard Johnstone

Cr Moya Carne

Cr Gilbert Medlen

Cr Natalie Major

Cr Peter Paterson

Cr Greg Cavanagh

Ryan Duff Chief Executive Officer

2.2 APOLOGIES

Cr Jarrad Logie

Cr David Earnshaw Deputy President

3.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil.

4.0 PETITIONS / DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS

Mr Ralph McNab from Great Southern Gypsum (GSG) made a presentation to Council regarding a proposed gypsum washing trial to be conducted on Lot 9000 Albany Highway Williams.

- GSG are currently setting up a Gypsum Mine on Lake Grace
- GSG are hoping to supply gypsum to companies such as BGC and CSR for plaster board manufacturing
- The Gypsum will be crushed at Lake Grace
- Once crush the gypsum needs to be washed to remove any fine particles
- GSG require a small parcel of land to conduct a gypsum washing trial for approximate 500 tonnes and potentially a further 500 tonnes
- The area should be flat and close to water and power but this is not necessary for the trial
- Once washed the gypsum will dry for 10 days before being truck to Perth
- If the trial is successful and the gypsum is suitable for plasterboard manufacturing then a full license and approval process would be undertaken

Mr McNab left the meeting at 7.20pm.

5.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil.

6.0 MEETING BUSINESS

Report Reference	6.1
Subject	Application to conduction a Gypsum Washing Trial
File Reference	14.25.30
Statutory Reference	Nil
Author & Date	R.N. Duff 3 rd March 2015

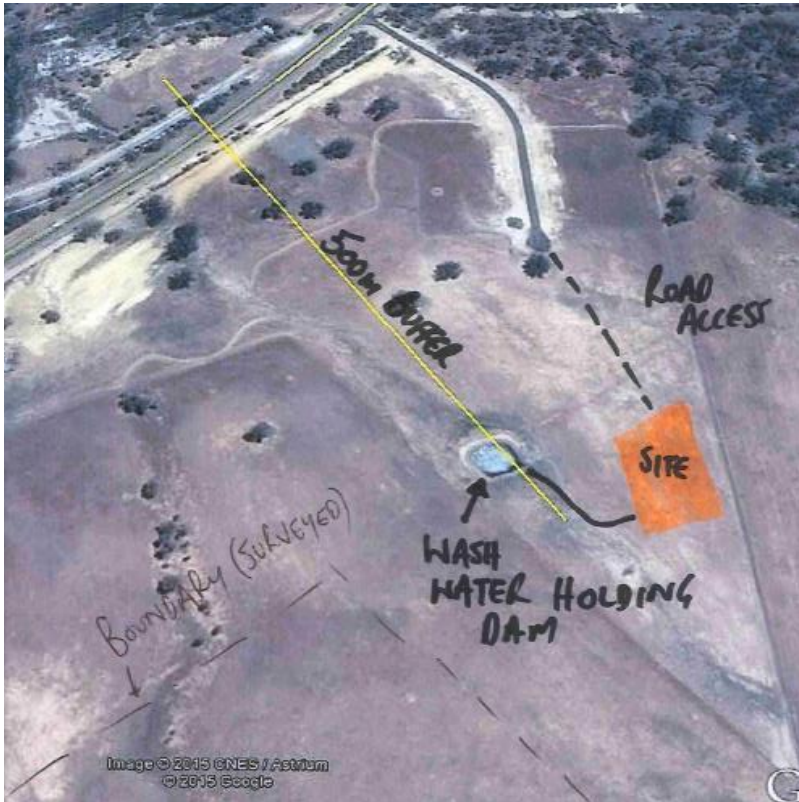
Background

A meeting with Ralph McNab from Great Southern Gypsum (GSG) and the Shire President and CEO was held on the 3rd December 2014.

The meeting further discussed GSG's plans to set up in Williams with the main point of interest being that GSG would want to start with a smaller operation of about 20,000 tonnes per annum. The smaller operation means GSG would like to start up on a smaller site preferably on the land purchased by the Shire of Williams from David Carter and remains undeveloped (Lot 9000 Albany Highway).

Provided GSG can get all the clearances required the Shire of Williams would need to consider if it would allow GSG to set up a gypsum wash plant on Lot 9000. A full planning process should be undertaken to consult the community and if this is an acceptable activity then land tenure arrangements would need to be discussed. The most likely scenario would be to lease a portion of the land to GSG for period acceptable to Council and limit them to a set amount of tonnes which would encourage GSG to look for a more appropriate site.

To get an indication of how any future operation may work GSG are proposing to conduct a trial as is being discussed with GSG at this meeting. The proposed site is shown below:



Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Recommendation

That Council consider the application for Great Southern Gypsum to conduct a gypsum washing trial on Lot 9000 Albany Highway Williams..

Council Resolution

Medlen/Cavanagh

That approval is given to Great Southern Gypsum to conduct a trial operation to wash 2 x 500 tonne quantities of gypsum.

This approval is subject to:

1. Water test results being satisfactory for discharge into a water course. In this instance the water will be stored in the dam marked on the attached plan;
2. Neighbours to the property being advised and showing no major objections;
3. Deposit \$2,000 into the Shire of Williams Trust Account for remediation works if required at the end of the trial;

4. The site to be remediated to the satisfaction of the Shire of Williams by the 30th June 2015 being the termination date of this approval;
5. Daylight hours of operation only.

**Carried 7/0
Resolution 174/15**

Report Reference	6.2
Subject	Lower Hotham Quindanning Fire Issue
File Reference	5.10.6
Statutory Reference	Nil
Author & Date	R.N. Duff 3 rd March 2015

Background

After the recent Lower Hotham/Quindanning Fire, the Shire of Williams Volunteer Brigades have held a series of meetings to debrief the community's involvement in the management of the fire.

Firstly each Brigade had a meeting and made a list of issues that they felt needed to be addressed to improve the way fire is dealt with in our region and possibly the South West of Western Australia generally. In general they had concerns with the way that the fire was managed as a whole. Farmer units/brigades have a strong desire to extinguish the fire as soon as practicable using the least amount of resources required. They felt that this was perhaps not the case for the management of this particular fire, which may have been as a direct result of the size of the fire and the consequent restrictions that are therefore placed on the subsequent management of the fire.

A combined meeting of Williams Bush Fire Brigade Captains and Shire of Williams Councillors was held on the 18th February 2015 to discuss all of the brigade issues with a view of narrowing these concerns down so that they could be effectively addressed by the relevant government department.

Comment

The full list of issues was presented to Council for consideration.

Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

Recommendation

That Council consider the list of issues compiled by the Williams Bushfire Brigades and submit the list to the Narrogin District Operations Committee at their March meeting for comment by the DOAC and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Council Resolution

Major/Carne

That the Chief Executive Officer presents the list of issues compiled by the Williams Bushfire Brigades and submit the list to the Narrogin District Operations Committee at their March meeting for comment by the DOAC and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

**Carried 7/0
Resolution 175/15**

There being no further business the Shire President declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm.