

Community groups need to speak up and be more critical Comments please, says KCGM

By Matt Chambers

SUPER Pit operator Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines' community reference group needs to be more critical to operate effectively, according to the company and a State Government agency.

But it is hamstrung by the fact that its most vocal critic, the Williamstown Residents Committee, refuses to be represented on the group.

The issue was raised by the Environmental Protection Authority

over KCGM's plans to build a new noise bund, Environment Department Kalgoorlie program manager Wayne Astill told the reference group at its November meeting.

"The question was (whether to) just to give the NOI (notice of intent) to this group," Mr Astill said.

"The question they had was would they (the reference group) be critical enough of the NOI," Mr Astill said.

"This group should really be going over it with a fine-tooth comb and being quite critical of it."

The EPA instead told KCGM to

put out a public notice for comment.

KCGM strategic mine development manager Gary Lye said it had been hard to get reference group members to put issues on the agenda.

Departing general manager John Shipp told the meeting it was fair to say the reference group did not tackle the concerns of the Williamstown residents' group.

"I'd like to see them here and address the issues that they have," Mr Shipp said.

"I have put a lot of personal effort in over the years to try and talk to

these people and I have failed, quite frankly."

Residents' committee chairwoman Diane Mills said she still had no intention of joining the reference group, which has been asking her join since it formed in 2000.

"I had heard enough rhetoric from KCGM up until then," Mrs Mills said. "It (the reference group) was a condition for the approval of the ROB and NOB open pits (in Williamstown, which did not end up going ahead) and I didn't think the company would let the community run the group."

"Reading the minutes from the group, it has proved me right - nobody ever has anything critical to say."

Mrs Mills said she was still not prepared to join, even though Messrs Shipp and Lye were leaving in early 2004.

Group chairman Ron Yuryevich said KCGM always reacted quickly to issues brought up by the reference group.

KCGM posts reference group minutes on its web site www.superpit.com.au.

Kal Miner Jan 27 04

KALGO

Stay in touch, says outgoing KCGM boss

By Ngaire Ballard

THE departing head of Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines says it is important for the company which mines on the city's doorstep to keep in touch with the community.

John Shipp, who has been at the helm of KCGM for almost six years, leaves tomorrow to become general manager of Super Pit owner Barrick Gold's Yilgarn operations.

Mr Shipp said KCGM had worked hard in the past five years.

"We've put in a lot of hard yards," Mr Shipp said. "And I think we've learnt you've got to keep in touch with the community."

The results of an inquiry into the Super Pit's effects on the community and its dealings with Williamstown residents are yet to be released.

The Cooke review, which was due to be made public on January 15, has not yet been received by State Development Minister Clive Brown, who is on holidays until February 23. Mr Brown wants to review the report before

it is released for public comment.

The inquiry, which was called in 2002 and expected to take six months, suffered many delays, including protests that the man charged with the inquiry, Tony Cooke, was not following the terms of reference.

Meanwhile, KCGM has received public comments on its plans to alter Boulder's skyline by installing a noise bund and waste dump as part of the pit's expansion to the south this year.

Mr Shipp said the report was imminent.

"We're taking on the feedback

and redrafting the report to accommodate it to come out shortly," he said.

Environmental impact assessment division mining and industrial branch manager Tim Gentle said the Environment Department would assess the report once it was received.

"They will review it to see if the company's response is adequate then they will make a recommendation to the EPA, whether further assessment is required," Mr Gentle said. The final decision rests with the Environmental Protection Authority.

8/01/04

From:
Lance Fraser
20 Vivian st Boulder
6432
PH: 90930275

To: KCGM
Ms Michelle Birch
Snr Environmental Officer
Pmb 27
Kalgoorlie 6433

RE: Bund Wall Feedback

Dear Michelle

Thankyou for giving me the opportunity to have some feedback into your planning of works in the south Boulder area. KCGM to me appears to have been forthright and open with me in my limited dealings with you, I particularly appreciated the personal invitation to your open day and our discussion was both friendly and frank, It in Fact gave KCGM a human face. -

The in depth ^{Consultive} ~~Comprehensive~~ environmental Review" took some reading but was very informative. I would like to add; I work in mining and am pro-mining.
I include a question and comment for your perusal.


^{inconvenience} ~~Comment~~ - I fully understand that any project anywhere, does have a period of ~~inconvenience~~ for neighbours, That's life. I also understand KCGM is undertaking substantial effort to plant ground covers, trees etc to ~~minimise~~ ^{minimalise} airborne dust.

Question - Do you Have a time frame between earthworks starting and soil stabilisation of the bund wall and areas under control of KCGM.

In short over what period time will the earth works be occurring and how long do you think it will take to stabilise soil in relation to dust ?

Thankyou and Regards

Lance Fraser



Michelle Birch

From: Rodger Williams [rwillcom@highway1.com.au]
Sent: Fri, 09 Jan 2004 20:05
To: Michelle Birch
Subject: Southern Extension Of The Environmental Noise Bund And Waste Rock Dump.....South Kalgoorlie W.A.

Thankyou for the information that you emailed to me, Mon. last. There is quite a lot to try and digest in such a short time. I happened to see an advertisement in the " Miner" over the Xmas break. We would have liked to visit the mine on your Open Day, but it was poorly planned.....it clashed with the World Cup Rugby matches in Perth ! We had purchased tickets for the Sat 11th and Sun 12th Oct. matches , some months prior to it's announcement.

I would have thought that as we are very closely located to the proposed works,and are possibly going to feel the impact more than most,that we may have received a visit from someone from KCGM, but such was not the case. We were visited by a couple of company representatives when the new Stores Cut [I think that's what it was called] blasting commenced. They were interested to hear what impact it was having on us. I have browsed through the drafts you sent,and offer the following comments for your consideration and comment.

You [The Company] seem to make a distinction between "Residential" and other land occupiers. Why and how has this distinction been made ?

Surely it is just as important for all land occupiers to have access to an environment that is safe and free of high levels of vibration, noise and dust. We should not be expected to tolerate living and working conditions that would not be tolerated by people living in other sectors of the community.

What will be the chemical composition and particle size of the dust that you expect the works to create ? How and where will it be measured ? From Table 2 it seems that KCGM will be the day to day sole arbiter as to whether any or all of the measured parameters are realistic [if you look in the wrong place you don't see it.....if you listen in the wrong place you don't hear it] and are within the Health, Safety and Welfare Standards for the general community.

It appears to me that the "Noise impact Assessment" is based largely on "modelling".....informed guesswork at best. There is no evidence presented as to the efficacy of this method,or the qualifications and experience of the consultants who prepared it. I would expect that the noise impact on us will be considerable,and at this stage would not be prepared to accept the report at face value.

The draft contains a lot of "motherhood and feelgood statements" with lots of padding and repetition.....it is after all a draft.I would hope that when it is knocked into shape,and some definite limits put on the important paramaters to be measured, we may be able to get a better idea of the actual impact it will have on us.

Yours Sincerely,

Rodger Williams,

No. 5 and No. 7 Dwyer St. Boulder W.A. 6432

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File Name: KCGM Southern Landform Extension Project Plan Feb 04.doc		Date: 05/02/2004



Mr Lance Fraser
20 Vivian Street
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12 February 2004

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Kalgoorlie
Western Australia 6433
T +618 9022 1100
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ABN 97 009 377 619
www.superpit.com.au

Dear Mr Fraser,

Thank you for your positive feedback regarding our draft project plan for the southern extension of the environmental noise bund and waste rock dumping area. KCGM offers the following response to the comment raised in your fax dated 8 January 2004 (repeated below in italics).

"Do you have a time frame between earthworks starting and soil stabilisation of the bund wall and areas under control of KCGM. In short over what period time will the earth works be occurring and how long do you think it will take to stabilise soil in relation to dust?"

We envisage that it will take approximately 24 months (2 years) to construct the complete noise bund as it will be undertaken during day shift only to ensure nearby residents are not affected by noise from this work at night. Some additional delays may also occur as KCGM is committed to stopping work if the wind causes a dust problem to ensure that residential and business areas are not unduly affected by dust.

However the aim is to undertake the construction in stages to allow rehabilitation of the western face to occur immediately after the construction of each stage (assuming wind conditions are favourable) . This focus on staged completion of the noise bund ensures that the noise reduction and visual amenity benefits are provided to the community in a timely manner.

If dust is found to be an issue prior to rehabilitation, KCGM plans to use water or dust binding agents to form a crust on the soil to reduce wind blown dust.

We hope that our response has clarified any concerns that you may have with this project.

KCGM now intends to submit this project plan to the Department of Industry and Resources (DoIR), Department of Environment (DoE) and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for approval.

The EPA will review the project plan and set an appropriate level of assessment. Once the level of assessment is determined it is advertised in the Monday edition of the West Australian newspaper and a 14 day appeal period is available to the public to raise any concerns with the level of assessment.

Public Inquiry Line	Accounts	Employee Relations	Open Pits	Fimiston Mill	Gidji Roaster	Supply
T 9022 1100	T 9022 1162	T 9022 1184	T 9022 1800	T 9022 1484	T 9022 1602	T 9022 1358
F 9022 1190	F 9022 1119	F 9022 1189	F 9022 1855	F 9022 1411	F 9022 1610	F 9022 1378

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By making a submission, you can tell the EPA your opinion of the development, contribute knowledge and make suggestions. Your submission will help the EPA consider your point of view on the proposal. You may have useful information which is not known to others, especially if you live or work in the area of the proposed development. We do hope that from this letter we have addressed your concerns and our summary in the proposal document will be of help to the EPA.

The EPA then makes recommendations about the proposal to the Minister for the Environment. The government decides if the project will go ahead and under what conditions. Your submission will help the EPA assess the accuracy and suitability of the proponent's report on the proposal.

If you would like further information or clarification regarding the approval process or for any queries you may have about this project please contact Ms Michelle Birch on 9022 1338 or 0409 880 205.

Please feel free to contact us at any stage to discuss any other aspect of our operations through our Public Inquiry Line on 9022 1100.

Yours Sincerely
Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines Pty Ltd



RUSSELL COLE
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

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Mr Rodger Williams
5 Dwyer Street
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12 February 2004

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ABN 97 009 377 619
www.superpit.com.au

Dear Mr Williams,

Thank you for your feedback regarding our draft project plan for the southern extension of the environmental noise bund and waste rock dumping area. KCGM offers the following responses to the comments raised in your email of 9 January 2004 (repeated below in italics).

"Thankyou for the information that you e-mailed to me, Mon. last. There is quite a lot to try and digest in such a short time. I happened to see an advertisement in the "Miner" over the Xmas break. We would have liked to visit the mine on your Open Day, but it was poorly planned, it clashed with the World Cup Rugby matches in Perth! We had purchased tickets for the Sat 11th and Sun 12th Oct. matches, some months prior to it's announcement."

The draft project plan was released for a period of 6 weeks to give the community sufficient time to review the document. It is unfortunate that the first time you were aware of this project was via the Kalgoorlie Miner advertisement on 29 December 2003. A Community Update for this project (and invitation to Mine Open Day) was delivered on 10 October 2003. Following this an additional letter drop was undertaken to nearby residents/businesses (including your property) inviting public feedback on 1 December 2003, the first advertisement for the draft project plan was also on this date.

Our next Mine Open Day is planned for Saturday 24 April 2004 and we hope that you will be able to attend.

"I would have thought that as we are very closely located to the proposed works, and are possibly going to feel the impact more than most, that we may have received a visit from someone from KCGM, but such was not the case. We were visited by a couple of company representatives when the new Stores Cut [I think that's what it was called] blasting commenced. They were interested to hear what impact it was having on us. I have browsed through the drafts you sent, and offer the following comments for your consideration and comment."

A KCGM representative visited your property on Friday 10 October 2003 and hand delivered the invitation to the KCGM Mine Open Day and Community Update information on the Southern Landform Development. Unfortunately as noted above, you were unavailable but we did speak to a gentleman representing your premises and asked him to pass on the information to you (the owner).

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"You [The Company] seem to make a distinction between "Residential" and other land occupiers. Why and how has this distinction been made? Surely it is just as important for all land occupiers to have access to an environment that is safe and free of high levels of vibration, noise and dust. We should not be expected to tolerate living and working conditions that would not be tolerated by people living in other sectors of the community."

In some cases environmental standards vary for residential or industrial premises. With particular reference to noise emissions, allowable levels are tighter in residential areas when compared to industrial premises. Nevertheless KCGM aims to meet the tighter residential noise levels for this project ensuring that businesses in this area are provided with the same protection as would be expected in a solely residential area.

"What will be the chemical composition and particle size of the dust that you expect the works to create? How and where will it be measured? From Table 2 it seems that KCGM will be the day to day sole arbiter as to whether any or all of the measured parameters are realistic [if you look in the wrong place you don't see it, if you listen in the wrong place you don't hear it] and are within the Health, Safety and Welfare Standards for the general community."

Dust produced by KCGM mining operations is chemically inert and does not contain free metals or compounds that are a health risk. With regards to the particle size of the dust created, the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulation (1995) states that a mine must ensure that exposure to respirable dust is kept as low as practicable and within exposure standards. We work to these standards to ensure the health, safety and welfare of our employees, contractors and the community.

The scientific convention is that "respirable particulates" are 100% respirable at 1 micron (μm), 50% respirable at 5 microns in size and have no penetration into the respiratory zone of the lung with a diameter of 7 microns or more. 0 - 7 microns is therefore the range of particle size that has the potential to damage the lung and is the dimension of particulates for which we test. KCGM conducts quarterly occupational dust, fume and noise sampling as required by the Department of Industry and Resources (DoIR) and these measurements have been well within the guidelines. A person located some distance from the operation would not be exposed to higher levels of atmospheric dust than those who have been sampled in and around the pit (This sampling includes operators working at dump locations).

KCGM also monitors environmental dust levels or total suspended particulates (TSP) which comprises of particles nominally from 1mm to 50 μm . We currently have a dust monitor located in Forrest Street Boulder and are intending to locate an additional monitor closer to the project area in advance of the project strating.

It is important to note that dumping and earthworks for this project will occur "wind pending" so as to minimise the impact on nearby residents/businesses. It is common practice at KCGM to water down blasted shots prior to loading to ensure that a minimum of airborne dust is created in both loading and dumping. If dust is found to be an issue prior to rehabilitation, KCGM will spray these areas with water or dust binding agents to form a crust on the soil to reduce wind blown dust.

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SoundPlan is a software programme used worldwide to predict, assess and map noise. This programme is endorsed by the Department of the Environment (DoE) in the forward planning, applications assessment and operation of sites which contain noise sources as part of their operations. The noise sources used in the modelling have been taken from actual measurements of equipment used at KCGM.

Consultants that use SoundPlan for KCGM operations, are experienced in its applications having carried out many modelling and prediction applications including noise assessment work for the Department of Environment, Western Power, Landcorp, Westrail, and Burswood Casino and numerous mining operations. Herring Storer Acoustics is also a member of the Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants and has quality assurance recognition according to AS/NZS ISO 9001:2000.

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The draft report is the basis for the final project proposal and will be subject to further assessment by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). Once it has been assessed the EPA may make recommendations as to any parameters or limits for endorsement by the Minister. These may then be delivered as Ministerial Conditions should the project be given approval.

We hope that our response has clarified any concerns that you may have with this project.

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The EPA will review the project plan and set an appropriate level of assessment. Once the level of assessment is determined it is advertised in the Monday edition of the West Australian newspaper and a 14 day appeal period is available to the public to raise any concerns with the level of assessment.

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The EPA then makes recommendations about the proposal to the Minister for the Environment. The government decides if the project will go ahead and under what conditions. Your submission will help the EPA assess the accuracy and suitability of the proponent's report on the proposal.

If you would like further information or clarification regarding the approval process or for any queries you may have about this project please contact Ms Michelle Birch on 9022 1338 or 0409 880 205.

Please feel free to contact us at any stage to discuss any other aspect of our operations through our Public Inquiry Line on 9022 1100.

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ACTING GENERAL MANAGER