

Minutes of the Community Working Group Meeting

Lord Howe Island Museum Library 6/9/2017

4.30pm – 5.20pm

Attendees: Bill Monks (LHIB Board), Andrew Walsh (LHI Board), Jack Shick, Ian Hutton, Beth Wilson, Campbell Wilson, Barbara Ardill, Esven Fenton.

Apologies: Therese Turner, Rodney Thompson, Helen Tiffin, Penny Holloway

1. Minutes / matters arising from last meeting and corrections

No corrections or comments from previous minutes were noted. As Rodney was not present, his action from the previous meeting was carried forward.

Action: Rodney to provide paper on NZ aerial ban on Brodifacoum.

2. Planning and Approvals

Andrew gave the group an update on the approvals process and confirmed that all of the key approvals required for the project were now received. This included the:

- Permit from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA)
- Approval from the Department of Environment and Energy under the *Environment Protection And Biodiversity Conservation Act*
- The Threatened Species License from the NSW Office of the Environment and Heritage
- The NSW Fisheries and Marine Parks permit

Andrew also reported the outcomes for the Human Health Risk Assessment process overseen by the NSW Office of the Chief Scientist (OCSE) that the potential exposure pathways including exposure through soil, air (dust), sediment, surface water, tank water as well as food sources such as seafood and locally grown fruits and vegetables. Potential risks from these pathways were then considered for those most sensitive groups - toddlers, school children, pregnant women and adults spending large amounts of time outside. The risk assessment of these exposure pathways and population groups concluded that exposure to brodifacoum from all potential sources are below those likely to result in adverse health effects. Andrew confirmed that the report was publicly available through the OCSE website and the LHIB website.

Andrew explained that now the approvals and HHRA had been received, a business paper had been prepared for the Board to make a final decision on whether the project would proceed with the decision at the Sept 2017 meeting in line with the process for resolution agreed in 2015. The group was given copies of the open session paper. Bill explained that the paper was available to the public as per other open session papers for all Board meetings. Andrew talked through the contents of the paper, how all requirements had now been met and the recommendation to the Board that the decision to proceed with the implementation of the project should be made.

Barbara asked whether the project now had final approval. Bill confirmed that the final decision would be made by the Board at the open session of the Sept meeting considering the business paper and community comments at the meeting.

Campbell said he disagreed with the way the vote was undertaken in 2015 and thought a high percentage of islanders were still opposed to the program. Andrew said that the ongoing consultation with the community had shown that even where people were opposed to the program they were willing to allow access for some form of treatment if the project proceeds. Campbell said he thought the risks were too high compared to the small amount of benefit that would be gained and that LHI was a Guinea Pig. Ian said what about the many other islands where it had been done and worked.

Beth asked whether the commonwealth health approval had been received. Andrew clarified that there wasn't a separate commonwealth health approval but the APVMA was the commonwealth agency responsible for considering health and that they had done their own health risk assessment as part of their decision process.

Campbell asked whether the LHIB could or would force their way onto properties if needed. Andrew confirmed that legally the LHIB had access to the land in accordance with the Access to Leasehold Land Procedure but not buildings as was currently the case. He stated the preferred option was to continue to negotiate access to land and buildings as we had been doing. Bill said that the Board's appetite to do that would be part of the decision process and that it had been done previously for example with African Big Headed Ants.

Barbara asked what would happen to non target species as she thought they would all die. Andrew explained that the trials on island had shown which species were likely to be at risk - woodhen and currawong and that those species would be taken in captivity and managed by Taronga Zoo. Ian said that a whole range of scientists had looked at the risks to species and considered it safe. He said that non target impacts hadn't occurred on the many other islands that had undergone eradications.

Beth asked about buffer distances to houses aerial baiting. Andrew confirmed that the legislation stated that aerial baiting could not be conducted within 30m from houses unless there was owner consent. He explained that in cases where there wasn't consent, aerial baiting would not occur within 150m but where there was consent from all relevant properties it could occur up to 30m from houses. He clarified that even if one property owner agreed to 30m to buildings but the neighbour wanted it at 150m, baiting would not occur within 150m of buildings on that property. Andrew clarified that baiting on individual properties would be as individually agreed and we would not force hand broadcast.

Andrew and Bill both restated that the decision would be made in the open session and that the Board would also consider public comments. Andrew urged people both for and against the program to attend the Board meeting to have their opinion heard.

Andrew advised the group that the REP decision had been brought forward to the start of the open session on Tues 12 Sept.

3. Operational Planning

Andrew advised that the operational planning was now basically on hold until after the Board decision including award of tenders for workforce accommodation and miscellaneous services. Campbell asked what the anticipated size of the project work force was. Andrew said it would be approximately 50 people with a mix of island residents and other required. Campbell asked whether bikes would be required. Andrew confirmed bike hire was part of the request for tender.

Campbell asked whether all the property plans were put together. Andrew said that they were developed but not yet stitched together. This would be undertaken by a GIS specialist if the decision to proceed was made.

4. Other matters

Campbell said that there was nothing else for this forum as it was now up to the Board. No other issues were raised.

5. Next meeting

Andrew advised that timing and format for future meetings would be advised pending the Board decision.

Meeting closed at 5.15pm