



MRM COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Date: 16 June 2006

Background

McArthur River Mining (MRM) acknowledges that the Borroloola, Sir Edward Pellew Islands and surrounding communities have had concerns regarding the level of consultation conducted regarding the proposed conversion of the mine from underground to open cut mining.

MRM therefore proposes to establish a Community Reference Group (MRM CRG) as part of an ongoing process of consultation. The outcomes of the MRM CRG process will help inform planning and decision-making by the mine.

Role of the Group

The MRM CRG is a forum for continuing consultation with representatives of local communities with an interest in the McArthur River Mine.

It is designed to represent a cross-section of community, business, Council and NT Government interests who have agreed to come together to discuss issues, concerns or questions regarding the operation and development of MRM.

The group:

- Is advisory in nature, not a decision-making forum, so there will be no voting on issues
- Provides community members with the opportunity to interface with MRM leaders and other stakeholders and to represent community interests
- Facilitates the exchange of ideas, suggestions and information among community members, MRM and other relevant stakeholders
- Promotes discussion between MRM and the community
- Works towards partnerships to better the community
- Helps to identify mutually-beneficial partnership opportunities.

Objectives

The objectives of the group are to:

- Provide a regular, formal link between MRM and the communities with an interest in its operations to ensure concerns and issues are heard
- Provide a feedback forum which facilitates a two-way flow of information between MRM and the communities
- Inform decision-making at MRM by ensuring community interests are taken into consideration.

MRM CRG membership

The preferred number of members on the MRM CRG is ten (10) people although more may be accepted subject to the level of interest and at the discretion of the MRM General Manager and MRM CRG Chairman. The members will be appointed by invitation and should represent:

- Traditional owners representing the four clan groups in the region
- Non-indigenous members of the Borroloola community including residents and business owners
- Borroloola Community Council
- NT Government
- MRM executive and management

In addition to the core MRM CRG members, a facilitator/secretariat appointed by MRM will attend each meeting together with other MRM staff as appropriate to ensure an effective flow of information from MRM to the MRM CRG.

As appropriate or required, specialist consultants and/or special guests will be invited to attend meetings. For example, we propose that environmental advisers may from time to time, address the committee on environmental protection and monitoring matters.

MRM CRG Member Roles

The role of the community members on the MRM CRG is to identify and communicate community concerns or questions regarding the proposed conversion from underground to open cut mining and all associated development activities.

Having discussed these concerns or questions at scheduled MRM CRG meetings, the community members are then requested to act as a conduit to the local community by sharing the information raised through the MRM CRG meetings.

The responsibilities of MRM CRG members are as follows.

All CRG members:

- respect and uphold the MRM CRG Terms of Reference
- agree to the publication of their contact details
- attend MRM CRG meetings
- accurately report their views and those of the wider community to the MRM CRG
- allow all MRM CRG members to present their views, uninterrupted, and to listen
- respect other members' opinions
- actively and constructively contribute to MRM CRG discussions with a view to finding mutually agreed resolutions to concerns
- suggest items for discussion (agenda items)
- if approached by the media, speak only on their own behalf and not discuss comments or opinions made by other members of the MRM CRG without the other member's knowledge and consent
- respect that all comments on behalf of the MRM CRG will be through the MRM CRG Chairman.

Community representatives:

- identify concerns or questions from the local community and provide feedback to the MRM CRG
- give feedback from the meetings to the wider community

MRM representatives:

- prepared to undertake timely follow-up on issues, as required
- frank, open and transparent in their approach
- respectful of community concerns
- committed to the process.

Chairman

The MRM CRG Chairman will be appointed by MRM. The qualities sought of the Chairman are:

- leadership skills in bringing together a group under a common goal for the benefit of the Borroloola community
- ability to effectively mediate between MRM and the community
- ability to conduct an effective meeting
- a strong understanding and respect for the needs and interests of the community.

The roles and powers of the Chairman are to:

- manage MRM CRG meetings in line with the agenda established for each
- ensure all members of the MRM CRG have equal opportunity to contribute
- maintain the order of the meeting
- ensure discussion by the MRM CRG remains focused on the objectives and scope of the group
- hold the deciding vote on any dispute within the MRM CRG
- act as the spokesperson for the group in any media activity covering the MRM CRG's work.

The appointed Chairman may be terminated by MRM with 30 days notice.

Decision-making

The MRM CRG has been established by McArthur River Mining. The General Manager, McArthur River Mining retains ultimate responsibility for the direction, purpose and conduct of the MRM CRG.

While the MRM CRG may provide advice or make recommendations regarding action by the mine, it is noted that the MRM CRG is advisory only in nature, and the General Manager, McArthur River Mining may accept or reject these recommendations.

Administration

MRM will manage the MRM CRG Secretariat involving arranging meetings, collating agendas and producing a report on each meeting.

Conflicts of interest

Representatives should declare any conflict of interest on issues discussed.

Term of appointment

The MRM CRG will at this stage, operate for a twelve month period. In the final meeting of the year, the MRM CRG members will agree if the group is to continue.

The term of appointment for MRM CRG members is twelve months. After that term, MRM CRG members can nominate for additional terms subject to the level of interest in participating among other community members.

Each MRM CRG member may nominate one (1) alternate to act for them if they are going to be absent from meetings. The alternate shall be deemed a representative on the MRM CRG committee with the full responsibilities of a group member.

Non-attendance at three meetings without a reasonable excuse will result in the member being replaced.

Meeting schedule

Meetings will be initially held on a bi-monthly basis with this frequency to be reviewed after six months by MRM CRG members. Extraordinary meetings will be held as required. Extraordinary meetings can be called with the support of any four MRM CRG members.

All meetings will be held during normal business hours.

Venue

The venue for meetings will alternate between mine properties and Borroloola.

Agenda

MRM CRG members will be forwarded a meeting agenda prior to each meeting. MRM CRG members are welcome to submit items for discussion. Agenda items are to be received at least 48 hours prior to meetings.

Non-tabled items may be presented by a MRM CRG member but it must be accepted that a satisfactory response may not be reached at that meeting.

Record of MRM CRG meetings

A record of each MRM CRG meeting will be documented by the Secretariat and distributed to all group members. It will also be made available to other community members through the Borroloola Library and all MRM offices.

Any changes required to the report of meeting will be amended and endorsed at the next MRM CRG meeting.

Expenses

No wages or salaries will be paid to MRM CRG members. The intention is that the committee be an independent, voluntary, advisory committee.

Reasonable travel and where necessary, accommodation expenses would be reimbursed to an agreed amount per travelling member per meeting.

Scope of matters that can realistically be addressed

It is expected that subjects raised will fall into four categories: development, environment, social and economic. For example:

Development

- Open cut operations
- River realignment

Environment

- Monitoring programs
- Water quality in the river and marine environments

Social/ Cultural

- Sponsorships
- Ideas for consideration by the McArthur River MAWA Corporate Social Involvement Program committee
- Sites of cultural significance

Economic

- Local business opportunities
- Employment and training opportunities

Changes to the Terms of Reference

Changes to these Terms of Reference may be made by the General Manager, McArthur River Mining at their absolute discretion.

McArthur River Mining
Community Reference Group members (July 2006)

NAME	REPRESENTING	OTHER RELEVANT ROLES
Annie Isacc	Elder Woman of the Yanyuwa	
David Harvey	Yanyuwa Traditional Owner	Member Northern Land Council MAWA Committee Member
Nancy McDinny	Elder Woman of the Garrawa	MAWA Committee Member
Roy Hammer	Marra Traditional Owner	Senior Ceremonial Chief for the area Chairman of the Aboriginal Area Protection Authority
Samuel Evans	Marra Traditional Owner	Chairman of MAWA
Billy Coolibah	Gurdanji Traditional Owner	Senior Traditional Owner for the area surrounding the mine Advisor on sacred sites within the district
Gordon Larsen	Gurdanji Traditional Owner	
Frazer Baker	Chairman of the Mabunji Aboriginal Resource Association Inc	Gurdanji Traditional Owner MAWA Committee Member
Johnny Shadforth	Representative of the Robinson River community	
Dennis Bree	Deputy CEO Department of Business Economic and Regional Development	Chairperson, Indigenous Economic Development Taskforce
Jeff Colver	Chief Executive, Borrooloola Community Government Council	
Judy Cotton	Principal of the Borrooloola Community Education Centre	
Keith Hallett	President, King Ash Bay Fishing Club (KABFC)	
Lesley Garner	Local business owner	
Brian Hearne	General Manager McArthur River Mining	
John Moriarty AM (Chairman)		Member of the Yanyuwa group Head of Design of Balarinji Australia Chairman of the National Aboriginal Sports Corporation of Australia Deputy Chairman of the Commercial Development Corporation Member of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission Member of the Australian International Cultural Committee.