



## KIMBA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE KIMBA ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP

Tuesday 13 December 2022, 8.30am arrival for 9am start  
Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA) conference room, 49 High St Kimba

### MINUTES

Convenor: Allan Suter – Kimba Consultative Committee (KCC)

### Agenda

Item	Lead	Key points
1. <a href="#">Welcome</a>	Allan Suter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housekeeping</li> </ul>
2. <a href="#">ARWA update</a>	Sam Usher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledgement of Country</li> <li>Safety thought</li> </ul>
3. <a href="#">KCC secretariat update</a>	Julia Becker (VC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New secretariat process/Chatham House Rules</li> </ul>
4. <a href="#">Legal update</a>	Rachael Rea (VC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Litigation update</li> </ul>
5. <a href="#">Site characterisation activities update</a>	David Osborn, Blair Scott AECOM: James Rusk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refresh of previously shared information and updated information regarding timing and what has taken place so far</li> </ul>
<b>10:30am-10:50am Morning tea</b>		
6. <a href="#">Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP)</a>	Shane Holland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walk through the CHMP</li> </ul>
7. <a href="#">Community Benefit Program (CBP) grants</a>	Business Grants Hub: Adam Comley Tess Dempsey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CBP grants follow up</li> </ul>
8. <a href="#">Community Skills and Development Program (CSDP) update</a>	Jane Uptlen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previous consultation</li> <li>Plan for design</li> </ul>

Item	Lead	Key points
9. <a href="#">ARWA community sponsorships process</a>	Catherine Partoon (VC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of sponsorship application form and process</li> </ul>
10. <a href="#">Other business</a>	Allan Suter	
<b>Lunch and Meeting Close</b>		

## Attendance

### Members

Committee Member	RSVP
Allan Suter (Convenor)	Accepted
Dean Johnson (Deputy Convenor)	Accepted
Symon Allen	Apology
Jeff Baldock	Accepted
Heather Baldock	Accepted
Pat Beinke	Accepted
Randall Cliff	Apology
Kellie Hunt	Apology
Sally Inglis	Apology
Jeff Koch	Apology
Meagan Lienert	Apology
Kerri Rayson	Accepted
Toni Scott	Apology
Peter Woolford	Apology
Amy Wright	Apology
Laura Fitzgerald	Accepted
Debra Larwood	Apology
Christine Lehmann	Accepted
Charlie Milton	Accepted

### Commonwealth Government

#### *Australian Radioactive Waste Agency*

Staff attendance in person:

- Sam Usher, Chief Executive Officer, ARWA
- David Osborn, General Manager, Safety and Technical
- Jane Uptlen, Manager, Communications & Engagement
- Megan Rusk, Assistant Manager, Communications and Engagement
- Rachel Ganczarczyk, Communications Officer
- Jim Haskett, Site Supervisor
- Deborah Francis, Community Liaison Officer
- Blair Scott, Assistant Manager, Engineering.

Staff attendance via VC:

- Rachael Rea, Senior Legal Counsel
- Shane Holland, Manager, Indigenous Engagement
- Susie Pedersen, Assistant Manager, Parliamentary, Coordination and Secretariat
- Catherine Partoon, Assistant Manager, Communications and Engagement
- Helen Alexander, Parliamentary and Secretariat Officer.

*External attendees*

- James Rusk, AECOM
- Adam Comley, State Manager South Australia/Northern Territory Business Grants Hub, Department of industry, Science and Resources (DISR)
- Tess Dempsey, Acting Program Manager, Business Grants Hub, DISR.

*Apologies*

- Julia Becker, Manager Governance, Coordination and International Relations, ARWA,

## Action items

### New action items

Item number	Action
<a href="#">KCC20221312/AO1</a>	Site characterisation activities - ARWA to consider establishing a register where individuals and businesses could register their interest / capacity for work associated with the proposed NRWMF.
<a href="#">KCC20221312/AO2</a>	Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) - ARWA to provide the CHMP to KCC/KEWG members and arrange for ARWA Indigenous Engagement representatives to talk them through the documents at the February 2023 meeting.
<a href="#">KCC20221312/AO3</a>	Community Benefits Program - BGH to ensure effective communication pathways for members and Kimba locals looking to contact/engage with them.
<a href="#">KCC20221312/AO4</a>	CSDP update - ARWA to distribute previous KCC/KEWG input on the CSDP design to members to review in preparation to discuss at the February 2023 meeting.
<a href="#">KCC20221312/AO5</a>	CSDP update - ARWA will invite for a DISR grant design representative to attend the February 2023 meeting to talk through the grant design process with members.
<a href="#">KCC20221312/AO6</a>	CSDP update - ARWA will arrange an out-of-session discussion about CSDP design with KCC/KEWG.
<a href="#">KCC20221312/AO7</a>	ARWA Community Sponsorships process - ARWA to send out a copy of the updated ARWA Community Sponsorship application form to KCC members for their feedback.
<a href="#">KCC20221312/AO8</a>	Other business - Invitations to be sent to KCC/KEWG members to meet with Minister King during her visit to Kimba.

### Outstanding action items from previous meetings

Item number	Action	Status	Comments
KCC20210826/A02	Provide detailed radionuclide descriptions for the ILW coming to Kimba.	COMPLETED	This action has been superseded by publication of the <i>Australia's national inventory of radioactive waste 2021</i> report, which can be accessed at: <a href="https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/australias-national-inventory-radioactive-waste-2021">https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/australias-national-inventory-radioactive-waste-2021</a>

Item number	Action	Status	Comments
KCC20210826/A05	Look at getting The University of Queensland (UQ) to update the social impacts of the facility aspect of their report.	COMPLETED	It is not feasible at this stage to revisit the UQ report, but a separate piece of work will be undertaken covering this.
KCC20220616/A01	Present / share more information about bore hole locations when this work is further advanced.	PENDING	
KCC20220908/A01	ARWA to follow up with Business Grants Hub about notifying CBP applicants on the status of their grant application.	COMPLETED	
KCC20220908/A02	ARWA to circulate minutes to members at the earliest opportunity, within two weeks following meetings.	COMPLETED	Ongoing item.
KCC20220908/A03	ARWA to find out when the AECOM Environmental Field Technician job advertisement closes and to let the Council know.	COMPLETED	
KCC20220908/A04	ARWA to circulate Mr Ryan Viney's presentation about Regional Development Australia Eyre Peninsula (RDAEP) to members.	COMPLETED	

## 1. Welcome

The Convenor opened the meeting at 9:02am.

The Convenor communicated apologies from Mr Symon Allen, Mr Randall Cliff, Ms Kellie Hunt, Ms Sally Inglis, Mr Jeff Koch, Ms Meagan Lienert, Ms Toni Scott, Mr Peter Woolford, Ms Amy Wright and Ms Debra Larwood.

The Convenor welcomed those joining the meeting online and outlined a number of housekeeping items.

## 2. Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA) update

ARWA's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) provided an Acknowledgement of Country, updated Kimba Consultative Committee (KCC) and Kimba Economic Working Group (KEWG) members on a recent visit to Kimba by a number of Aboriginal Peoples with a cultural interest in the site and outlined how AECOM had helped to facilitate this important visit.

ARWA's Safety Thought focused on the site characterisation work taking place on site and the "Stop Work" principle, which is central to ARWA's safety processes. Members were advised ARWA's CEO had visited the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWMF) site the previous day to see the work taking place there in person. He spoke with the AECOM Works Supervisor about potential risks and hazards on site and how they were being mitigated; and about how the "Stop Work" principle would be applied as and when required.

Members heard about the significant level of interest in ARWA's work and were provided with an overview of ARWA's relevant key briefings and meetings since the 8 September 2022 KCC/KEWG meeting. These included a meeting with Minister King; a briefing with the South Australian Parliament's Environment, Resources and Development Committee; a meeting with Senator Karen Grogan, Senator for South Australia and Chair of the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee to update her on the NRWMF program; and appearing before the Economics Legislation Committee at Budget Estimates.

Members were informed that site characterisation activities had commenced at and around the site. Outputs from the activities will feed into the NRWMF's design and regulatory approvals and are underpinned by a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP). Further details about the activities and the CHMP would be provided later in the agenda.

Members were updated about ARWA's ongoing communications with the Barngarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation (BDAC) and engagement with Traditional Owners in the community more broadly, including notifying them about scheduled commencement of the site characterisation activities.

Members were advised ARWA has continued to be active in the Kimba community since the last KCC meeting, including sponsoring the Kimba Show, the Christmas market and the forthcoming Christmas pageant. Also, the outcome of the third round of the Community Benefit Program grants has been announced, with representatives from the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) Business Grants Hub (BGH) to provide further feedback on the grants process later in the agenda.

Members were reminded this was the last KCC/KEWG meeting of the year and ARWA was looking forward to members' participation in discussions, feedback and questions. ARWA recognised and thanked all members for their support and contribution over the last year to the KCC, which was very much appreciated.

### **3. KCC/KEWG secretariat update**

ARWA's Parliamentary, Coordination and Secretariat representative advised members their team has taken over responsibility for minute taking at KCC meetings and that minutes will be taken in accordance with Chatham House rules. This means that members will not be individually identified in the minutes, with the aim of promoting open and frank discussions during meetings.

### **4. Legal update**

ARWA updated members on legal developments since the previous meeting in September 2022. ARWA explained that Minister King is the respondent in the current litigation and therefore has an interest in the progress of the two ongoing cases: the constitutional matter and judicial review.

Regarding the judicial review, following interlocutory discovery orders by the court, where the documents ARWA was required to provide were defined, ARWA's legal section and lawyers located, redacted, bundled and supplied the documents to BDAC's lawyers by the 30 September 2022 deadline. As the applicant, BDAC did not have any discovery obligations and so were not required to find, analyse or hand over any documents as part of the discovery process. There was a short case management hearing on 12 October 2022 where a timetable was set for the remainder of the processes that need to occur in the matters prior to the hearing, including filing documents, affidavits and objections to evidence and then written submissions from both parties.

With regard to the constitutional matter, both parties have agreed the facts, so the next step is to file evidence. The final hearing for both matters has been scheduled over five days from 6 March 2023.

A KCC/KEWG member asked what would happen beyond the 6 March 2023 hearing. ARWA explained that following the hearing there would be a period of waiting for the judgement to be handed down, which could be a matter of weeks or months, following which either side may choose to make an application to appeal the matters.

### **5. Site characterisation activities update**

ARWA provided an update on the progress of recent site characterisation activities and introduced a representative from AECOM, the contractor leading this work. ARWA also outlined officers' work with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) on site design.

ARWA and the Minister had communicated with key stakeholders regarding the start of the next stage of the site characterisation activities, and that they did not signify the start of construction. ARWA requested the assistance of KCC/KEWG members in ensuring the community is aware that site characterisation activities currently taking place on and around the site do not signify the commencement of construction. ARWA also emphasised that the site characterisation activities being undertaken are reversible.

ARWA has implemented a CHMP for the current site characterisation activities on the Commonwealth site. The CHMP was informed by information obtained through cultural heritage surveys undertaken by RPS, AECOM and BDAC. The CHMP provides strict measures aimed to protect identified and any unknown cultural heritage while characterisation activities are undertaken at the site. Areas that have been identified as potentially having cultural heritage have been clearly delineated and no site characterisation activities are currently planned in these places. Further consultation will occur with relevant parties prior to any activities taking place in these areas.

Members asked questions about the locations of identified cultural heritage areas on the site and ARWA provided further details.



Site characterisation activities are expected to take around 18 months. During that period, AECOM will provide a works notification to ARWA for each proposed activity, which ARWA will consider and sign off as appropriate. CSIRO and Geoscience Australia are also involved in the activities.

The activities being undertaken are investigative only, seeking information above, on and below the surface to understand the site and surrounds. One of the purposes of the site characterisation activities is to provide baseline data for a range of aspects of the project. This information will also be used as a baseline for comparison in years ahead.

Site characterisation activities include:

- soil and rock bed profiles and assessment of existing background radiation levels
- levels of ambient light at night in different moon phases, flora and fauna surveys, information about the weather and periodic dust sampling to assess airborne radioactivity. ARWA expressed how pleased they were that a local person had been engaged by AECOM to undertake dust sampling
- ground drilling to collect core samples to understand what is happening below the ground
- assessment of ground water sources, discharges, flows, chemistry and water table depth
- geophysical and seismic surveys to create a seismic profile
- the location of underground services
- taking electromagnetic measurements.

Data collected will inform the design of the NRWMF and ARWA's licence application processes such as:

- for modelling and design purposes, for example engineers will need soil profile information for footings design
- ARWA's Environmental Impact Statement, which the Minister for the Environment and Water will use to decide whether approval will be granted under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- for future licence applications that will be made to ARPANSA in accordance with their regulatory requirements for siting, construction and operations of the facilities.

Given the range of activities being undertaken, members were advised the community would see various work crews in the area. ARWA advised that workers involved with the site characterisation activities would undertake Site Induction to be made aware of safety requirements, as well as measures to protect cultural heritage.

ARWA commented that when the site characterisation activities have been completed, the site will be one of the best understood areas in the region in history and agreed to share useful information with the local community where appropriate.

ARWA also highlighted that following the meeting, ARWA and AECOM representatives would be available to answer questions from members and the public for the rest of the day and asked members to encourage anyone who had questions to come and meet them. A member asked who ARWA and AECOM were hoping to see during this time. ARWA responded that they would welcome anyone who wants to talk about ARWA's work and what they are doing.

Members indicated they would like to see a register set up where individuals and businesses could register their interest and capacity for work associated with the proposed NRWMF. One member indicated they have a register of some local businesses and trades. AECOM indicated a register would be useful because even if trades and services could not be used for the site characterisation

activities, local business contacts might be useful as the project progresses.

AECOM advised local contractors were being utilised where possible. Members were informed that local businesses who would like to discuss the possibility of providing their services to AECOM could meet with their representative later in the day, noting AECOM does not have control over the source of the materials subcontractors use. A brief discussion about the sub-contracting process followed.

ARWA indicated that locally available businesses and services are highlighted to contractors as part of the induction process. It was also noted that local businesses have provided positive feedback about the activities being undertaken and the beneficial impacts on them.

Some concern was expressed about the possibility that NRWFM project utilisation of scarce local trades such as plumbers and electricians might mean they would not be available to service local householders. ARWA's view was this would not be a problem during the current site characterisation activities stage of the project, but thought could be given to how to mitigate potential adverse impacts of contractors engaging local trades and services later in the program.

ARWA asked those present to convey an important message to community members noting that access on to the site would not be possible without proper induction. This is due to the need to keep people safe and protect cultural heritage on the site. Even people who have lived in the area all their lives will need to complete an induction before accessing the site. Parties interested in visiting the site should contact the ARWA Kimba office in the first instance to discuss.

**Action:** ARWA to consider establishing a register where individuals and businesses could register for work associated with the proposed NRWFM.

## 6. Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP)

ARWA advised members they engaged AECOM last year to undertake a cultural heritage assessment to identify cultural heritage that might be impacted by the NRWFM project delivery. Cultural heritage surveys undertaken by AECOM and BDAC have identified cultural heritage sites and objects. The identified sites and objects are mapped and described in the CHMP.

The aim of the CHMP is to put measures into effect to protect identified and any unknown heritage on the site during the current site characterisation activities. AECOM will ensure heritage experts are present if required during these activities. Additionally, ARWA will continue to seek to develop a cultural heritage working group to provide advice on site characterisation activities which may impact cultural heritage. This CHMP will inform current site characterisation activities, noting it is a live document that will evolve and be updated as and when required as new cultural heritage information is identified.

AECOM archaeologists surveyed the site and targeted parts of the road corridor and identified some objects of potential heritage value. ARWA advised that the AECOM identified objects have been protected in situ and BDAC's view has been sought as to how they would like them to be managed.

The CHMP includes Unknown Finds Protocols which have a 'Stop Work' effect if items of potential cultural heritage are found during the site characterisation activities. Work stops while steps are taken to identify the cultural heritage potential of the find and appropriate protection measures put in place.

A member asked for an explanation of the term 'corridor'. ARWA explained that as part of the project there are transport corridors adjacent to site, so they have also been surveyed.

A member asked if the KCC/KEWG would receive a copy of the CHMP. ARWA responded that the CHMP would be circulated to members and will also be published on the website for the public, as soon as an accessible version of the document can be provided by AECOM. A member asked for

someone to talk the KCC through the CHMP. ARWA confirmed that representatives from their Indigenous Engagement section would talk the KCC/KEWG through the CHMP at the February 2023 meeting.

ARWA updated members with ARWA's steps in seeking BDAC consultation and comment on the draft CHMP prior to it being implemented for use.

ARWA provided information to members about BDAC's position on the current site characterisation activities relating to cultural heritage impacts. AECOM and ARWA have carried out a risk management assessment of the current site characterisation activities and are satisfied cultural heritage protection can be effectively managed and the planned activities can proceed. ARWA has informed BDAC further cultural heritage information from them is welcomed and will be considered for incorporation into the CHMP, and that any other input or knowledge they have relating to the project will also be welcomed and considered.

ARWA spoke to members about their desire to work closely with Traditional Owners and the challenges due to the current litigation. As a result, AECOM has needed to work diligently at engaging and seeking Traditional Owner feedback. ARWA confirmed notices were sent to all Aboriginal representative corporations in the broader area inviting them to be part of the CHMP process.

In recent weeks 30-40 Traditional Owners with cultural connection to the Kimba area, including Barngarla people, have travelled to Kimba to meet with ARWA staff and ask questions, seeking to understand the NRWMF project. Visitors were also able to reconnect with the Kimba region and family in the area. Their feedback and shared information will inform the NRWMF Project Cultural Heritage Assessment.

ARWA highlighted their gratitude to the Traditional Owners who travelled to Kimba. A KCC/KEWG member commented they received fantastic feedback about the visit and that the visitors had been pleased with the information they received; and that their families were looking forward to them returning and getting to know them and to their being on country on a more regular basis. The visitors are planning to return to Kimba soon and ARWA confirmed they will assist to facilitate this.

**Action:** ARWA to provide CHMP to KCC/KEWG members and arrange for ARWA Indigenous Engagement representatives to talk them through the documents at the February 2023 meeting.

## 7. Community Benefits Program (CBP) grants

DISR's Business Grants Hub (BGH) representatives provided KCC/KEWG members with a snapshot of Round Three of the CBP grants process. None of the applications were found to be ineligible and 28 of the 30 submissions were merit listed. The 19 highest scoring projects were funded and shared the \$2 million dollars of funding. KCC/KEWG member input amounted to 20 per cent of the total merit score.

A number of PowerPoint slides were presented to KCC members providing further details about the Round Three grants process and timeline. The delay in announcing the outcome of the third grant round was discussed and KCC members highlighted the concerns of applicants who experienced many months of waiting for news. Successful applicants were also concerned about the impact of inflation on the cost of implementing their projects and the fixed deadline for projects to be completed.

BGH acknowledged the concerns raised and explained that delays to announcing the outcome of the third grant round have occurred for a number of reasons, including:

- flooding in Kimba at the beginning of 2022 resulting in an extension to 3 March 2022 for applications to be submitted

- the caretaker period for the 2022 federal election
- a new incoming Government following the 2022 election, and
- the grants being included in a Government audit of spending.

Members enquired about the possibility of extensions to project delivery timeframes to counter the consequences to recipients of delays in receiving funding. They were advised the constraining factor is the link between grant funding and Government budget appropriations, as funding is required to be acquitted within the financial years Government has allocated it to. However, if a particular project was deemed to truly be in jeopardy, BGH would see if anything could be done to assist. ARWA noted that even if a funding rollover request to the next financial year is submitted to Government, the outcome cannot be guaranteed.

BGH explained they have prioritised and are contacting the 19 successful applicants to talk through their projects and grant agreements before the agreements are issued, and intensively case working with each of them. They explained the importance of getting this stage of the Round Three process right, as any projects that elect not to proceed at this point can have their funding redistributed to another merited project on the list. If the money is assigned to a project and then returned later because the project does not proceed, it must be returned to the Commonwealth Government Treasurer and cannot be redistributed to other program projects.

Members commented that after the first round of the CBP grants, they examined their priorities for the community in a grants workshop and decided that economic development considerations should come first. Their view was this feedback was provided to Government but not reflected in the Round Three grant outcomes. BGH commented that if the funding had been allocated purely on economic considerations, the available funding would not have been fully committed, so some social projects were included.

BGH added that if the KCC/KEWG scoring of the 19 successful applicants is compared with the BGH scores, the same 19 applicants would have been awarded funding; the only difference was the ranking of some of the applicants. There would have been no difference in the 19 funded project outcomes if only the KCC/KEWG application scores had been used.

Members provided ARWA with additional feedback from the community about the projects which were assigned funding, most notably the resurfacing of the Kimba hospital driveway. Members indicated they wanted to understand how the decision was made so they can explain it to the community. BGH advised it was an eligible, merited project that demonstrated community support and community benefit (the proposed project would make the space safer for the community). Indeed, multiple letters of support were received for the project.

Members asked for a BGH contact to direct people to about the Round Three grants. BGH confirmed Ms Tess Dempsey as the contact, took on board feedback from members that some people have struggled to engage with them and committed to look into this.

Members also commented that some people in the community wanted to know the degree of consistency in the grants processes between rounds one, two and three. BGH responded that the guidelines have changed a little but have been mostly the same across the three grant rounds. They added that their role is to evaluate grant applications they receive in accordance with the guidelines, highlighting they can only evaluate applications they receive and can only merit applications that meet guideline criteria.

All present at the meeting agreed the importance of learning from previous grant rounds and applying those learnings to the future Community Skills and Development Program grants, with process design and transparency being the key to community expectations being aligned with outcomes. It was also acknowledged that despite the best intentions it was potentially not possible

to please everyone.

**Action:** BGH to ensure effective communication pathways for members and Kimba locals looking to contact/engage with them.

## 8. Community Skills and Development Program (CSDP) grants

ARWA provided some background information about the CSDP. In 2018-19 the KEWG was consulted about the CSDP draft plan; ARWA will circulate the previous input and is seeking member feedback on whether it is still reflective of the KCC/KEWG's views. Attendees agreed that members would review the plan and discuss it in detail at the next meeting in February 2023.

Members highlighted the need for the KCC/KEWG to fully understand the Government's CSDP process to maximise the benefits of future grants for the community. This included clarity on the overall process and decision making, including where there is the opportunity for shaping and influencing for example assessment criteria, and where there is not. They also emphasised the importance of providing the community with a voice and influence in the design of future grants rounds. This component of the CSDP design, incorporating what the community says it needs to be sustainable and thrive, should be reflected in grant application outcomes. Grant outcomes need to reflect community expectations.

Members went on to discuss and provide examples of where their input had been sought for the CBP grants but in their view had not been reflected in grant application outcomes (this was also discussed in Agenda item 7). They added it was difficult for them to explain the reasons to unsuccessful applicants—who expected them to know.

Members expressed a strong view that Government grant funding being provided as part of the NRWMP program was an important opportunity to create long-term economic benefits for the Kimba community. They wanted to see an economic focus, with applications resulting in ongoing economic multiplier effects/benefits in the community taking precedence over social projects. Members added that if Kimba had an Economic Development Officer, they would be able to assist with applications, noting ARWA's efforts to date in trying to engage one.

ARWA committed to transparency around the grants design process for the CSDP, where KCC/KEWG consultation would happen and how it would feed into the grant design. ARWA acknowledged the importance of learning from past grants in terms of the process, criteria and community expectations, noting that some parts of the grants process are governed by Government policies and procedures that must be adhered to. Government funds must be committed in a certain way, so there are some aspects of the grants process that cannot be changed.

ARWA indicated their understanding was that merit criteria weightings could be used to align the process design with community needs, and again highlighted ARWA's desire to consider aspects of the CBP grants process the community did not like when designing the CSDP process if possible. ARWA emphasised that evaluations of applications are carried out independently at arm's length from ARWA, but the community could influence the design. All agreed on the importance of KCC/KEWG members being fully engaged in the design process to ensure alignment of CSDP outcomes with community expectations. ARWA agreed to arrange for a DISR grants representative to attend the February 2023 meeting to talk to members about the design process and where/how they could influence it.

ARWA suggested there might be other assistance that could be provided outside of the CSDP such as educating local people about how to write grant applications before the first grants round opens so they clearly understand what is required. Members agreed that this would be useful.

ARWA reiterated the importance of the CSDP phase of the Government's grants program in Kimba, with its focus on skills and development. Members acknowledged how much the grant funding has been appreciated by the people of Kimba and the difference it has made to local infrastructure.

**Action:** ARWA to distribute previous KCC/KEWG input on the CSDP design to members to review in preparation to discuss at the February 2023 meeting.

**Action:** ARWA will invite a DISR grants representative to attend the February 2023 meeting to talk through the grant design process with members.

**Action:** ARWA will arrange an out-of-session discussion about CSDP design with KCC/KEWG.

## 9. ARWA community sponsorships process

ARWA outlined that Kimba community sponsorships are allocated on a quarterly basis to not-for-profit entities who can apply for up to \$2,000 to benefit the community. In addition, ARWA may choose to sponsor ad-hoc community events to an agreed value. ARWA is required to report to Government on the sponsorships and how the community and Government benefits from them.

ARWA has received feedback from the community about the current quarterly process and is taking this on board to improve it. As a result, the application form has been simplified and the number of questions reduced to 19 from 33. The form's focus is now on what the sponsorship application is for and how ARWA will be recognised as part of the sponsorship. Members asked if they could review the proposed new application form. ARWA agreed to circulate it to them for feedback.

ARWA recognises that parties requesting sponsorship are often volunteers and wants to make the process as accessible as possible, highlighting that Deborah Francis at the Kimba office is available to assist applicants if they need some help. Members advised ARWA that the sponsorship program has created a lot of goodwill in the community to date and ARWA's involvement is appreciated.

Proposals about how the process could be operated more effectively were discussed, with a focus on flexibility. ARWA proposes removing the four rounds of sponsorships in 2023 so community members can apply throughout the year. A member asked if people could apply more than once in a given period. ARWA responded that careful thought would need to be given to doing this.

ARWA is considering updating the sponsorship flyer to provide examples of items that were funded in the previous quarter. A member asked if a note could be added to the flyer explaining how funding would be allocated during the year. A member also asked if the sponsorships could be advertised on social media. ARWA confirmed this was possible, but a number of approvals would be needed and any consequential impact to timeframes would need to be considered in deciding whether to do this.

**Action:** ARWA to send out a copy of the updated ARWA Community Sponsorship application form to KCC members for their feedback.

## 10. Other business

Minister King will be visiting Kimba and the proposed NRWFM site in January 2023. ARWA commented that this was a great opportunity for the Minister to visit before the court case in March 2023, to listen to the full range of views in the community about the Facility.

ARWA advised that suggestions have been provided to the Minister's office about groups she could meet with, for and against the proposed NRWFM, to ensure a balanced visit and that she is able to meet with locals. A meet and greet will be hosted at Workshop 26. The Minister will be invited to meet with KCC/KEWG members during her visit; invitations will be sent before Christmas.

**Action:** Invitations to be sent to KCC/KEWG members to meet with Minister King during her visit to Kimba.

## **Meeting close**

There being no further business, the Convenor thanked the members for their attendance, participation and input, and the meeting closed at 12:48pm.