

MT ARTHUR COAL

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR MEETING 37

- Location:** Mt Arthur Coal Boardroom
- Date:** Wednesday 9 April 2014
- Present:** Christine Phelps (CP) Muswellbrook Shire Council and Chairperson, John Bancroft (JB) Resident, Graham Guest (GG) Resident, Raymond Webb (RW) Resident, Bruce Macpherson (BM) Resident, Craig Flemming (CF) Muswellbrook Shire Council, Christian Everitt (CE) Mt Arthur Coal, Angela Fiumara (AF) Mt Arthur Coal, Deirdra McCracken-Tindale (DM) Mt Arthur Coal, Joel Chin (JC) Mt Arthur Coal, Ross Carlson (RC) Mt Arthur Coal.
- Apologies:** Martin Rush (MR) Muswellbrook Shire Council, Eddie Constable (EC) Resident, Daniel Redman (DR) Mt Arthur Coal, Rebecca Harcus (RH) Mt Arthur Coal.
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Meeting Commenced: 2.03pm

1. HOUSEKEEPING AND SAFETY

Overview provided.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No pecuniary interests were declared.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING (5 February 2014) MINUTES

Minutes from 5 February 2014 meeting were not confirmed (see General Business).

JB requested that it be noted that he still feels the minutes should include additional information and moved that the Chair put the content of the minutes to a vote. The Chair proposed that item 3 be moved to item 11 and noted a discussion with the Department of Planning about CCC meeting minutes. The Chair suggested that a representative from the NSW Planning could be invited to attend a future meeting to resolve the matter using the dispute mechanism.

JB moved for additional time to discuss the minutes; seconded by BM. The motion did not pass.

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4. ACTION POINTS FROM MEETING 36 IN FEBRUARY 2014

ACTION ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTIONED BY
1	Confirm potential dates for CCC to view a second blast to be identified pending blasting schedule and weather.	Action will remain active with a view to coordinating a time over the next two months (AF)
2	Provide a copy of 2010 Mt Arthur Coal Consolidation Project Approval to each member of the CCC with minutes of 5 February 2014 meeting.	Action completed.
3	Investigate the potential to install a pipe in the alluvial wall on Denman Road to allow any water sitting behind the wall to flow back towards the Hunter River.	<p>CE explained that engineers have investigated the suggestion and it is not viable to protect the integrity of the alluvial wall.</p> <p>Further questions relating to whether the water behind the alluvial wall can be redirected and whether there is a means of transferring the water back to the Hunter River.</p> <p>Mt Arthur Coal can advise that the water at the alluvial wall cannot be diverted across, around or through the alluvial wall. The installation of a pipe in the alluvial wall would not be allowed under Mt Arthur Coal's current approvals. To prevent the build-up of standing water behind the alluvial wall, an engineered cut out drain and sump is being built to redirect the water. The water will be returned to the mine water system for purposes such as dust suppression.</p> <p>Question about whether the mine is permitted to allow water to escape the mine site via spill ways across Denman Road. Mt Arthur Coal can confirm that in accordance with its Project Approval and Environment Protection License, it must use appropriate controls to prevent the release of any polluted water from site.</p> <p>Request to follow up on additional questions. (ACTION 1)</p>

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4	Only show Mt Arthur Coal employees and contractors in the total employee figures presented to the CCC.	Action completed.
5	Provide an overview of the actions being undertaken to reduce diesel emissions at Mt Arthur Coal.	<p>Projects being undertaken by Mt Arthur Coal to reduce diesel emissions, including the use of five per cent biodiesel, a lighting plant change out, a Caltex fuel additive and an investigation into truck idling were discussed and copies of a case study from the most recent BHP Billiton Sustainability Report handed out to CCC members.</p> <p>Additional questions about whether pollution gear can be put on heavy vehicles. It was noted that the EPA is looking at having all mine vehicles regulated.</p> <p>It was requested that pollution gear on mine vehicles be discussed at the next Mine Managers Forum and that information be shared with the CCC. CP will mention to the Mayor of MSC. (ACTION 2)</p>
6	Provide mitigation options to reduce the visual impact of the water pipe running on the inside boundary of Mt Arthur Coal along Denman Road.	<p>Shade cloth will be placed over the pipe in high visibility areas.</p> <p>Action completed.</p>

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<p>7</p>	<p>Report back to the CCC regarding the potential to install a stand pipe, rather than the water tanks, on the Denman Road Boundary.</p>	<p>It was explained that the increased flow rate in surge tanks will allow water carts to be filled in a more adequate time frame than would a piping system that does not have the same capacity.</p> <p>The tanks will be sourced from the site's environmental dam and the pipes will be installed on the mine side of the wall. The tank will sit on a higher level with bunding around the tanks. There will be inspection regimes for the infrastructure to ensure it is properly maintained.</p> <p>General discussion about sediment dam and recent localised flooding which caused water to cross Denman Road.</p> <p>Request for Teresa Coleman to call JB about Macleans Hill drilling. (ACTION 3)</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Discuss the appointment of an independent chairperson to the CCC at the next meeting.</p>	<p>The Chair will write to NSW Planning and Infrastructure requesting that an independent chair and minute keeper be appointed to the Mt Arthur Coal CCC.</p> <p>Action completed.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Confirm that Mt Arthur Coal has requested that it conduct its CCC meetings in accordance with the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure CCC Guidelines in its modification project application.</p>	<p>AF confirmed that it has been requested to be incorporated into the consent conditions for the Mt Arthur Coal Modification Project, which was pending approval. An update on the status of the modification was provided in the meeting.</p> <p>Action completed.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Mt Arthur Coal to request air quality monitoring results from Bengalla Mine and advise of response at next meeting.</p>	<p>Mt Arthur Coal requested the data from Bengalla Mine which was not provided.</p> <p>Action completed.</p> <p>BM moved that Mt Arthur Coal endeavour to provide correlation between DF06 results and Bengalla's closest monitor. JB seconded.</p> <p>(ACTION 4)</p>

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5. MT ARTHUR COAL BLAST EVENT

RC entered meeting at 2:35pm.

Blast event of 19 February 2014 and actions that have been taken by Mt Arthur Coal since then were discussed, including the scheduling of blasts to reduce sleep times and the completion of a third party audit which identified areas in the mine pit that were a higher risk for the generation of blast fume. As a result, Mt Arthur Coal can now manage the product selection for these areas. Restrictions around blasting and the impact of weather on shots fired were explained. Outcomes of investigation and improvements to Mt Arthur Coal's blasting procedures were discussed. Discussion around weather modelling and wind change prediction mechanisms. Discussion about blast fume and NOX gases. Mt Arthur Confirmed that it had not exceeded its consent conditions with respect to the number of blasts on 19 February.

ACTION: Mt Arthur Coal to share NSW Health fact sheet re blast fume with CCC members. (ACTION 5)

6. OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

An overview of the information contained in the Mt Arthur Coal April 2014 CCC report was presented by Mt Arthur Coal. It was also noted that Mt Arthur Coal has recently commenced a project to stabilise pit roads. An update on the Mt Arthur Coal Modification Project was provided, including that the project will be reviewed by the Planning Assessment Commission. In response to a request for a copy of the D-G's report by the CCC members, Mt Arthur Coal can confirm that the draft conditions would be released as part of the public comment process undertaken by the Planning Assessment Commission.

RC left meeting at 3:40pm.

7. OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT

An overview of the information contained in the Mt Arthur Coal April 2014 CCC report was presented by Mt Arthur Coal.

ACTION: Elevated EC and pH results from August, October and December 2013 and February 2014 to be provided at next CCC meeting. (ACTION 6)

8. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING DATA

An overview of the information contained in the report was presented by Mt Arthur Coal. Discussion and explanation about monitoring difference between HVA and TEOM.

ACTION: Mt Arthur Coal to provide real time monitoring results on an hourly basis (in colour) for 16 and 22 January 2014 and 3 and 14 February 2014. (ACTION 7)

9. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

An overview of community investment activities contained in the Mt Arthur Coal April 2014 CCC report was provided by Mt Arthur Coal.

10. COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS

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An overview of community complaint activities was provided by Mt Arthur Coal. It was confirmed that the predominant noise complainant does not fall within Mt Arthur Coal's management zone. JB suggested that information provided by Mt Arthur Coal about low frequency noise monitoring is misleading. Discussion about whether the real time monitor picks up low frequency noise. Mt Arthur Coal can confirm that an independent review of the noise complaints by NSW Planning and Infrastructure suggests that the low frequency noise related to the complaint is not attributable to Mt Arthur Coal's operations.

ACTION: Mt Arthur Coal to address project approval conditions with respect to placement of lights and report back to CCC. (ACTION 8)

With regards to the placement of lights at Mt Arthur Coal, the Project Approval condition requires the mine to:

- a) implement all reasonable and feasible measures to mitigate visual and off-site lighting impacts of the project,
- b) ensure no outdoor lights shine above the horizontal, and
- c) ensure that all external lighting associated with the project complies with *Australian Standard AS4282 (INT) 1997 – Control of Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting*,

to the satisfaction of the Director General.

Mt Arthur Coal carries out its operations in compliance with this condition.

11. CCC MEETINGS

General discussion led by Mt Arthur Coal about NSW Planning's CCC guidelines. **ACTION: Mt Arthur Coal will provide responses to questions from CCC members within 28 days of a CCC meeting in accordance with the NSW Planning guidelines. Responses will be provided with the minutes of the CCC meeting. (ACTION 9)**

MSC is reviewing its proposed guidelines and is seeking to meet with NSW Planning's Director-General (D-G) to discuss as a result of public submissions received. MSC also sent a letter to NSW Planning asking for the D-G to comment on the appointment of CCC Chairpersons by MSC.

The independence of the Mt Arthur Coal CCC Chairperson was discussed and the Chair suggested that if the committee was concerned about the independence of the Chair they had the option of passing a vote of no confidence.

ACTION: The committee requested that the Chair write to the Director-General of NSW Planning that an independent chair and an independent minute taker be appointed. (ACTION 10)

There was a discussion about Planning's requirement for Chairs to endorse minutes prior to their distribution to CCC members. Opposing views were expressed – some felt that endorsement of minutes by Chairperson is not critical, while others felt it would reflect good governance. Chairperson will now endorse minutes prior to distribution going forward.

BM moved a motion that Mt Arthur Coal be given another chance to improve meeting minutes. Seconded by RW. Motion passed. JB requested that his dissent be noted.

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BM moved that the minutes of the two previous meetings be confirmed. Seconded by GG.
 Motion passed.

12. GENERAL BUSINESS

BM wanted his displeasure noted that MSC representative Cr Rush has consistently not attended CCC meetings.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Mt Arthur Coal Community Consultative Committee meeting is proposed for Thursday 5 June 2014 at 2 pm at Mt Arthur Coal.

Meeting Closed: 4:35pm

ACTION ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTIONED BY
1	Mt Arthur Coal to provide additional information about water management	Please see information in section 3 of action points from last meeting.
2	Discuss whether pollution gear on heavy vehicles can be discussed at the next Mine Managers Forum with MSC Mayor	CP
3	Mt Arthur Coal Geologist Teresa Coleman to call John Bancroft re Macleans Hill drilling	AF
4	Mt Arthur Coal will endeavour to provide correlation between DF06 results and Bengalla Mine's closest monitor	BM
5	Mt Arthur Coal to share NSW Health fact sheet re blast fume with CCC members (<i>Please see attached document</i>)	AF
6	Details of elevated EC and pH results from August, October and December 2013 and February 2014 to be provided at next CCC meeting	CE
7	Mt Arthur Coal to provide real time monitoring results on an hourly basis (in colour) for 16 and 22 January 2014 and 3 and 14 February 2014	CE
8	Mt Arthur Coal to address project approval conditions with respect to placement of lights and report back to CCC	Please see information in section 10 of these minutes.
9	Mt Arthur Coal will provide responses to questions from CCC members within 28 days of a CCC meeting in accordance with the NSW Planning guidelines	AF

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10	Chair will request in writing to NSW Planning D-G that an independent chair and an independent minute taker be appointed	CP
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MINE BLAST FUMES AND YOU

The information below is for the general community. For assessment of occupational risks, and health impacts of blast fumes for mine workers, please refer to the relevant occupational health service for advice.

What are blast fumes?

Blasting is used to break up solid rock in open cut mines and quarries. Blast fumes are the gases that may be generated during blasting. Some of the gases are toxic and some are not. In terms of health impacts, the critical gases generated are oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) - nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and nitric oxide (NO).

Nitrogen dioxide gives blast gas plumes their characteristic reddish orange colour and pungent odour.

Gases produced during blasting usually disperse rapidly and pose no acute health risk. Under certain conditions the gas plume may persist and can affect nearby people or residents who are downwind of the blast site.



Picture: The Singleton Argus:

What are the potential health effects from exposure?

Exposure to the fumes in a blast plume is usually very brief – seconds to minutes. For most people, any health effects from exposure to a blast plume are short lived.

Symptoms from high level exposure may include:

- Eye, nose and throat irritation and coughing
- Dizziness and headache
- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing or exacerbation of asthma

Serious lung inflammation (pulmonary oedema) has been known to develop several hours after exposure to very high levels of NO₂.

What should I do if I see a plume?

1. Avoid exposure to the plume. If you see a plume, do not enter it (this includes driving through it) and move out of the plume's path if possible. If at home, head indoors, close all doors and windows. If you are in a car, wind up windows and close vents until the plume passes.
2. If you find yourself in a plume, try to move out of it as quickly as possible.
3. If you have been exposed, use water to thoroughly wash eyes, and to clear your nose and throat.
4. If you experience respiratory symptoms you should seek immediate medical attention and inform the doctor of possible NO₂ exposure. Be alert for possible delayed breathing problems. If you are an asthmatic, use your reliever medicine.

Who should I notify if I see a blast plume?

Throughout NSW blast fumes can be reported to the NSW Environment Protection Authority's environment line on **131 555**. In the Upper Hunter Valley, blast fumes should also be reported to the Department of Planning & Infrastructure compliance office on 6575 3405.