

**Mt Arthur Coal**  
**Community Consultative Committee Meeting**  
**10 November 2021**  
*Community Response Line: 1800 882 044*



**Attendance**

**Chairperson**

Dr. W.E.J Paradice AM (WP) Independent Chair MAC CCC

**BHP Representatives**

Adam Lancey (AL) General Manager BHP Mt Arthur Coal  
Andrew Marsh (AM) Corporate Affairs Specialist- Community  
Hannah Farr (HF) HSE Manager  
Katie Weaver (KW) Communications (only observed this meeting, will be more involved in 2022)

**Community Representatives**

Jennifer Lecky (JL) Community Representative  
Di Gee Community Representative (able to listen but not communicate in meeting)  
John Bancroft (JB) Community Representative (prior to this meeting)  
Tony Lonergan (TL) Community Representative (prior to this meeting)  
Sharon Pope (SP) Muswellbrook Council  
Kerri Garvie (KG) Minute taker

- 1. Welcome and Apologies:** The meeting was held online via video conference at 9am. The chair (WP) welcomed and informed members that John Bancroft (JB) and Tony Lonergan (TL) have handed in their resignations and will discuss this further in the Chairs report.

**Apologies: None**

- 2. Safety:** AL discussed & showed a slide of the crush injury (partial amputation to an employee's thumb). The employee was unhitching a trailer from a light vehicle that had a sticky tow ball and as it detached his hand was crushed between the bottom side of the tray and the top of the hitch mechanism. AL explained that BHP have redesigned the next fleet of Isuzus to ensure the tow ball is not underneath the tray to avoid this happening again. JL asked if this can be shared to inform others that have the same vehicle set up, AL confirmed that it has/will be shared amongst the mining network and GM forums he attends and he is open to any other suggestions to forward the information.

**3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests: Ongoing Declaration**

WP is paid for chairing this meeting as is KG for taking the minutes.

**4. Approval of the previous Meeting's Minutes:** WP stated previous minutes from the February meeting had been circulated and asked if there were any objections, everyone agreed they were a true record of the meeting. Kerri Garvie (KG) has been asked to take minutes from this meeting with the possibility of becoming the minute taker.

**5. Matters Arising:** WP asked SP to discuss further the issue from last meetings minutes regarding mobile phone reception. SPs staff and some members of the public have mentioned to SP that the mobile phone reception has declined over the last three years. This was raised when the Mt Arthur Operations Continuity project was talked about with people raising their concerns about additional heights, placements and additional impacts this will have. There was also talk that this was due to Mt Arthur but SP has no evidence to support this. AL will contact Telstra to get them to provide a definitive position from Telstra's perspective to pass on to council and community members.

WP is still in discussion with the Department of Planning about updating committee membership but can confirmed two new members have been approved and hope they will join the next meeting.

**6. Report from the Chair:** WP addressed resignations by TL and JB. Tony had missed 3 meetings and was unable to attend this meeting, so after a discussion with the Chair decided it was best to resign from the committee. JB had a number of ongoing issues and had sent the Chair an email which the Chair deemed inappropriate. The Chair issued a code of conduct warning as per the CCC guidelines and informed the Department. JB emailed his resignation to the Chair on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021. JB requested that his resignation letter be attached to the minutes of the CCC. The Chair has informed the Department about these resignations.

Two new members have been approved by the Department. As a result of the above resignations two more community members can be added to the committee. WP continues discussions with the Department and fellow Chairs to set up ongoing meetings to discuss training, common issues, experiences & mentoring for Chairs and CCCs. JL suggested that after the local government elections council should allocate councillors to join the committee. WP indicated that it is up to Council to choose whether they are represented by a Councillor or staff. SP indicated that post the local government elections it would be opportune to have a discussion with Council about the role of the CCCs.

**7. Applications, approvals, and projects:** AM discussed the A171 extension for rehabilitation is pending approval with the intent to relinquish A171 when the Resource Regulator is satisfied that the rehabilitation is complete.

**8. Operations update:** AL went through the operations update. AL indicated that recorded injuries were a little higher than MAC would like in the first quarter. The bulk of these injuries were minor but it did have an impact on some members of the team. Outside of this across safety everything was tracking well. AL reported that Aboriginal & TS Islander and female employment continue to increase. AL indicated that the company were on track with production and sales for the quarter. Overall AL indicated that it was a positive start to the financial year.

9. **Land management:** HF presented slides for the rehabilitation update. Bulk shaping and topsoil spreading is continuing in the Drayton void area. Additional areas that will be rehabilitated in FY22 are VD5 and VD2. Mt Arthur Coal is currently scoping a program of works to enhance the rehabilitation completed on VD1 for commencement in FY22.
10. **Environment:** HF briefly explained the pre read and indicates that air quality measurements show that only one day recorded elevated PM10 TEOM results. Such exceedances are raised with the Department. Equipment performances are doing well with only 1 station that had less than 75% data capture which was due to a planned upgrade (test and tagging). Water monitoring data indicated that there were 6 occurrences where sampling points exceed trigger levels, expert underground consultants were engaged and results were reported to DPIE. The investigation is ongoing. There was one exceedance of the blast criteria and 3 in excess of the 5mm/s vibration limit during the reporting period. The 5% criteria has not been exceeded. WP and HF discussed the 115 decibel limit. HF will provide more information about how this limited was derived and the implications of exceedance. There were no exceedances of operational noise. The MAC annual review is under consideration and a final copy will be distributed to CCC members.

**Action:** HF to provide further information on the 115 decibel limit and the implications of exceedance.

11. **Community:** AM presented slides from the community complaints database. There were 22 complaints in the first quarter of the FY, 5 were related to blasting, 12 related to lighting. These took place when the dumping of the top pit began. 2 complaints were related to noise from Roxburgh Rd. All complaints were closed out quickly and to the satisfaction of the complainants.

AM discussed community engagements including supporting the Muswellbrook covid vaccination clinic, \$200,000 funding went to the business chambers to support local businesses that have suffered during the Covid pandemic. Several small grants provided from the BHP “NSW Benefiting My Community Program” were issued. JL thanked Mt Arthur for their care packs and said they were very much appreciated.

WP asked community members if they had anything to report. DG was listening to the meeting but was unable to speak to the meeting due to her internet connection. SP discussed the number of enquiries Council have been experiencing for the new development in the industrial area. SP believes a number of these proposals will end up being categorized as regionally significant development. SP indicated that when these projects go on exhibition Mt Arthur may be interested in reviewing the proposals. SP indicated there is also concern about the transport of wind turbine blades, specifically that the route will not be able to use the New England highway. This has potential impact on local roads, land owners and council. SP suggested that Transport NSW and Department of Planning need to develop a strategic plan for bridges, roundabouts, intersections that need to be upgraded. Funds required will need to charge the wind farms for use of those roads and the costs of upgrades. This is an ongoing issue and SP is following through Council.

12. **Calendar of Events:**

13. **General Business:** WP discussed his concern with Mt Arthur being for sale and the long term impact on the local community. He would like the CCC to discuss in future meetings BHP’s strategic directions and what this means for Muswellbrook and the Upper Hunter. AL agreed to have a preliminary discussion on this topic next February.

**Action:** BHP’s strategic directions and potential implications for Muswellbrook and the Upper Hunter to be discussed at the February 2022 meeting.

14. **Next Meeting:** 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 9:00am

15. **Meeting Close:** WP closed the meeting at 10:00am

#### **ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

**ACTION 1** AL to contact Telstra regarding poor mobile phone reception.

**ACTION 2** HF to provide technical information on the 115 decibel limit.

**ACTION 3** AL to gather information to discuss BHP’s strategic directions with regard to coal and Mt Arthur and implications for Muswellbrook and the Upper Hunter at the next meeting.

#### **ACTIONS REMAINING OPEN FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

<b>Action 1 (Feb 2019):</b> Chair to get in touch with the DP&E (DPIE) to ascertain if a Department representative could attend a future CCC meeting to speak about the cumulative impacts of dust. The DP&E were contacted.	Chair to discuss with NSW Department of Planning.
<b>Action 2 (Nov 2019):</b> Chair to arrange a department representative to discuss the lighting issue and associated community impacts particularly through the provision of defining offensive lighting.	Chair to discuss with NSW Department of Planning.

#### **ATTACHMENT 1 - John Bancroft’s resignation.**

I am tendering my resignation, effective today, from the MAC CCC and Mount Arthur Coal and Maxwell Infrastructure Joint Rail Committee.

I have been on this committee for over 10 years and my resignation, as I have always intended, would be at a time when I was sure that this CCC would be in good hands moving forward. Mr Chairman, under your stewardship, I am confident this is the case.

When you leave any job, which has been a part of your life for so long a time, you cannot help but look back and reflect on how your participation and intervention, as the community representative, has effected the changes that helped the community.

At the May 2021 CCC meeting, I advised the committee that MAC and BHP had not uploaded any CCC meeting material, including the agenda, pre-read material or the minutes, onto their website since May 2020. However, with help from yourself and the DPI&E, it was finally updated in September 2021. I find it interesting that history always appears to repeat itself because the same problem happened in 2019.

Mr Chairman, it came as a great surprise to me as it did to you recently, that you cannot assume that the minutes and pre-read material will automatically appear on BHP’s website. In August 2018 I discovered that MAC’s interpretation of the meaning of ‘agenda’ meant just the cover sheet but not the pre-read material. Still today there is no pre-read information from 2011 to August 2018.

Mr Chairman I appreciate your work ensuring that the minutes and associated material have been accurate and available to the community in a timely manner. I understand that this has caused you a huge amount of additional work dealing with inaccurate draft minutes over the last 12 months. I did complain to the department that, prior to your appointment, the minute taker appointed to the CCC, was an employee of a contractor of MAC, but to no avail.

Your appointment of a new independent minute taker will reduce your workload, correcting minutes, so you can continue your work as Chair.

I am considering, subject to my having available time, assisting in forming an

overarching CCC. This Community Consultative Council would comprise of all members from CCCs from all mines in the state. This Council will meet to discuss things such as universal regulations and would be funded by the mining industry.

Once again, thank you for your work, with this committee, since your appointment in July 2019.

John Bancroft