

**Mt Arthur Coal**  
**Community Consultative Committee Meeting**  
**12 May 2021**  
***Community Response Line: 1800 882 044***



**Attendance**

**Chairperson**

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

**BHP Representatives**

Adam Lancey (AL)	General Manager BHP Mt Arthur Coal
Andrew Marsh (AM)	Corporate Affairs Specialist – Community
Kim Carlson (KC)	Corporate Affairs Specialist - Community
Damien Williams (DW)	Manager Mine Scheduling
Hannah Far (HF)	Manager Health, Safety, Environment

**Community Representatives**

John Bancroft (JB)	Community Representative 0411 068 670
Jennifer Lecky (JL)	Community Representative 0419 268 130
Diane Gee (DG)	Community Representative 0448 448 346
Allie Meissner (AM)	Minute taker

1. **Welcome:** The meeting was held at the Muswellbrook Community Centre and opened at approx. 9am. The chair (WP) welcomed members to the CCC meeting and introduced the minute taker (AM).

**Apologies:** Tony Lonergan (Community Representative)

2. **Safety:** AL discussed safe work practices undertaken at MAC during March 1 in the 100 year rain event with 13 days of continuous run of wet weather. Teams worked hard to ensure they could safely operate in the wet and during this time there were zero recordable injuries which is an achievement worth celebrating.
3. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interests: Ongoing Declaration** - WP has been appointed by the NSW Department of Planning to provide the role of Independent Chairperson and is paid by BHP for this role (previously declared). The minute taker (Harvey Recruitment) is also paid by BHP although responsible to the Chair (declared 13 May 19).
4. **Approval of the previous Meeting's Minutes:** WP stated the previous minutes for the February meeting dated 17 February 2021 had been circulated and asked if there were any objections. There was one change emailed from JN to the Chair requesting the actions/items which were included in the previous minutes and for which he was responsible be noted as completed.

- 5. Matters Arising:** AM presented slides regarding the actions arising from the previous meeting. JN has altered the formatting and scaling of the graphs in this pre-read. Options were discussed in agenda item 10. The water licence map has been sent out with the pre-read on May 5. In regard to the “The Big Issue”, as this is a micro-business enterprise to equip people with business skills those involved are encouraged to manage the stock they purchase based on what they intent to be able to sell. Many vendors only purchase the magazines they intend to sell for the given day and return to the post office to buy more if their sales are going better than expected.
- 6. Report from the Chair:** The chair spoke about the recruitment of new members and the interest from current members to stay on the CCC. There has been positive feedback from CCC members however, the addition of new members will be a point of further review. Membership of the CCC has been advertised to obtain expressions of interest and closed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021. Two written expressions of interest had been received and one verbal discussion between the Chair and the potential applicant.
- 7. Applications, approvals and projects:** AM discussed the PowerPoint presentation and explained the exploration licence A171 and A437 renewal applications were submitted in 2020 and are currently being assessed by NSW DPIE. These can take a number of years to be processed. A renewal application for Mt Arthur Coal’s Primary Mining Lease (ML1487) seeking a further 21 years (within the current approved footprint), has now been submitted with the NSW Government.
- 8. Operations update:** AL presented slides regarding resetting and re-orientating the pit back to where they want it to be after coming out of an extreme weather event on the back end of March. There were unfortunately 2 recordable injuries during this time. However, this effort is to be commended as the total number of injuries is half the levels in the previous year. There were no environmental events, however there were 2 community complaints relating to blasting, bringing the YTD total to 28 at the end of April.
- There is currently a significant rehabilitation exercise underway with seeding to begin in the next few weeks. There has been decent earthmoving equipment used to get this done.
- AL explained the production levels are lower than usual and lower than what would be preferred. This will be an ongoing challenge, with weather being a significant factor. The mine site is currently in a financially precarious position off the back of market challenges, exchange rate and weather impacts.
- To improve the mine’s financial status, there are options to sell to another company. However to do this, AL explained there needs to be interest from other mining companies. This process can take up to 2 years, MAC is currently 9 months into this process. There has been a team working on this and resetting operations in terms of trade sale.
- 9. Land management:** HF presented slides about FY21 Land Management and Rehabilitation summary. Dog trapping has been further delayed until Apr –Jun 2021 due to contractor availability and weed management work is ongoing in response to the strong growing season over summer. Mt Arthur Coal has completed (with seed) 29.9 ha to date for FY21. A further 12 ha adjacent to the new EME Pad has been bulk shaped and had topsoil spread ready for seeding. Bulk shaping has commenced in the Drayton Void dump.

## Agenda item 9: Land Management



### FY21 Land Management Summary

- Dog trapping has been further delayed until Apr – Jun 2021 due to contractor availability
- Weed management work is ongoing in response to the strong growing season over summer

### FY21 Rehabilitation Summary

- Mt Arthur Coal has completed (with seed) 29.9 ha to date for FY21.
- A further 12 ha adjacent to the new EME Pad has been bulk shaped and had topsoil spread ready for seeding.
- Bulk shaping has commenced in the Drayton Void dump (bottom left)



### VD4/5 Rehab Maintenance works underway

- Scalping (all 68.2 ha completed);
- Weeds sprayed (all 68.2 ha completed);
- Repair of erosion and re-working of rock drains (partially completed);
- Application of additional gypsum (all 68.2 ha completed);
- Application of compost (approximately 30ha completed at the end of March); and
- Re-application of seed mix (approximately 13ha completed at the end of March).

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**10. Environment:** HF discussed the changes made to the graphs as action 1 and 4 from the previous CCC meeting in February. It was agreed by the members on the CCC the proposed graph is easier to read as it is enlarged, now a stacked bar and a more appropriate scale. The previous Water Monitoring Plan has been split in to two separate Plans within the pre-read report, one for Surface Water and one for Groundwater to assist with interpretation and visibility of monitoring site labels. These plans were also communicated via email to the CCC as per Action 2.

HF presented slides about Air Quality Monitoring. The pre-read covers the performance of all six statutory PM10 monitoring sites using Technology for Particulate Matter Measurement (TEOMs), and the two dust deposition gauges. One day within the reporting period experienced elevated absolute PM10 TEOM monitoring results: 16 January 2021 DCO4, Investigation Reports submitted to DPIE, zero incremental exceedances for MAC. Equipment performance summary for statutory PM10 monitoring sites: Outlined within Pre-read Report - Table 1, Equipment performance for February and March was significantly improved after challenges in January. Note the equipment issues identified during the month of January 2021 within Table 1, were also reported to the CCC at the February 2021 meeting. No exceedances recorded against Annual Performance Criteria for Deposited Dust. Guidance Information for interpreting the graphs and a monitoring locations map have been included in Pre-read Report.

The chair asked HF if DCO4 had any issues. HF explained yes there were issues which resulted in a data cap. This was resolved on its own.

JB questioned if the 75% rate changes? HF explained that anything less than 75% will be looked into, however this is still catching a good data set.

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JB discussed the days DCO5 has been out of action. Is there a backup when this is out of action? HF explained, no there is no back up monitor. It takes time to diagnose the problem and then fix the problem. The repairs happen as soon as possible.

HF presented slides regarding water, blast and operational noise monitoring. Quarterly groundwater monitoring is scheduled to occur in March however due to excessive rainfall during the month groundwater monitoring could not be completed. Groundwater monitoring has been rescheduled and is being completed in April. Results will be reported at the next CCC meeting in August 2021. There have been no exceedances of the blast criteria during the reporting period. There has been one blast in excess of the 5mm/s vibration limit and one blast in excess of the 115dBL over pressure limit. There is an allow exceedance of 5% of blasts for these limits over a 12 month period. The 5% criteria has not been exceeded. There have been no exceedances of operational noise criteria during the reporting period. Monthly night time compliance monitoring (attended) was completed to schedule.

JB and HF discussed the different types of lighting. They discussed the difference between fixed and mobile lighting. DW confirmed that all complaints have not been related to fixed lighting.

HF presented slides regarding the Forward Program update and Environmental Incidents. The MOP/FP development has begun and will contain a three year look ahead for the mine. The final draft of the MOP/FP will be issued to the CCC – estimated June. Feedback to MAC will be required prior to the next meeting (August). The documents will be provided both in hard copy and electronic version. No incidents occurred during the reporting period. Update: Unauthorised Discharge Event (23rd Jan 2020) near Denman Road: In addition to the Formal Warning issued to Mt Arthur (September 2020), the EPA has chosen to modify the MAC Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) to include a new Condition requiring Mt Arthur to complete a 'Review of mine water transfer pipelines' by the 24th September 2021. The outcome of this review will include detailing further actions or works that can be feasibly implemented to reduce further risk. Mt Arthur is currently in the process of engaging suitably qualified party to complete the study.

MAC has completed, and therefore complied with, all annual reporting requirements under licence conditions. During the reporting period, the 2020 Independent Environment Audit Reports (IEA) were submitted to the relevant Regulators. These reports are available to view on the BHP website.



# Agenda item 10: Environmental Performance

## Environmental Monitoring Results

### Air Quality Monitoring (Period 1 January to 31 March)

The pre-read covers the performance of all six statutory PM10 monitoring sites using TEOMs, and the two dust deposition gauges.

- One day within the reporting period experienced elevated absolute PM10 TEOM monitoring results:
  - 16 January 2021 DC04
  - Investigation Reports submitted to DPIE, zero incremental exceedances for MAC.
- Equipment performance summary for statutory PM10 monitoring sites:
  - Outlined within Pre-read Report - Table 1
  - Equipment performance for February and March was significantly improved after challenges in January.
  - Note the equipment issues identified during the month of January 2021 within Table 1, were also reported to the CCC at the February 2021 meeting.
- No exceedances recorded against Annual Performance Criteria for Deposited Dust.
- Guidance Information for interpreting the graphs and a monitoring locations map have been included in Pre-read Report.

## 2020 Independent Environmental Audit (IEA)

- Schedule 5 Condition 9 of the Project Approval requires Mt Arthur Coal to commission an Independent Environmental Audit of the project every 3 years.
- During the February CCC, we reported that the IEA was soon to be finalised.
- Mt Arthur's Response Report, which addresses any recommendations identified during the Audit, was submitted to DPIE on 21st January 2020 and was subsequently accepted.
- A copy of the *MAC Response to Recommendations Report* was provided:
  - Electronically in conjunction with the Pre-read Report.
  - A hard copy prior to the May meeting.
- The 2020 IEA Reports are available to view on the BHP website using the following link:  
<https://www.bhp.com/environment/regulatory-information#>

### Performance Summary:

- A 47% decrease in the number of non-compliances identified against the 2017 IEA and the best result since the 2014 Project Approval Modification.
- A total of 24 non-compliances were identified which resulted in 13 recommendations:
  - High Risk findings- 0
  - Medium Risk findings - 0
  - Low Risk findings - 15
  - Administrative findings – 9
- A total of 20 additional improvement opportunities were identified by the Audit Team.

Mt Arthur will now be moving through the corrective action plan.

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### Annual Mine Operations Plan (MOP) / Forward Program Update

The MOP/FP development has begun and will contain a three year look ahead for the mine. The final draft of the MOP/FP will be issued to the CCC – estimated June. Feedback to MAC will be required prior to the next meeting (August). The documents will be provided both in hard copy and electronic version.

### Environmental Incidents

No incidents occurred during the reporting period.

### Update: Unauthorised Discharge Event (23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2020) near Denman Road:

In addition to the Formal Warning issued to Mt Arthur (September 2020), the EPA has chosen to modify the MAC Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) to include a new Condition requiring Mt Arthur to complete a 'Review of mine water transfer pipelines' by the 24th September 2021. The outcome of this review will include detailing further actions or works that can be feasibly implemented to reduce further risk. Mt Arthur is currently in the process of engaging suitably qualified party to complete the study.

### Environmental Reporting

MAC has completed, and therefore complied with, all annual reporting requirements under licence conditions. During the reporting period, the **2020 Independent Environment Audit Reports (IEA)** were submitted to the relevant Regulators. These reports are available to view on the BHP website using the following link:

<https://www.bhp.com/environment/regulatory-information#>

- 11. Community:** KC presented slides about community complaints. In the third quarter (January, February, and March) of this FY, there have been a total of 6 complaints made by the community. By location, of the six complaints, one was related to dust from Denman Road; two to noise and one for lighting from Roxburgh Road and two in the other category related to concerns around rubbish and cigarette butts and the other related to language used on a public two way channel. A total of 29 complaints in FY21 to date.

JB questioned the impact the height of the bung wall will have on phone reception in the area. AL confirmed there are upgrades and improvements made by the providers on their towers to ensure the phone reception is not effected.

KC discussed community engagements, the newsletter was distributed to local key stakeholders and community members in February and April, BHP representatives attended the Muswellbrook Chamber and Singleton Chamber business breakfasts, MAC held and attended several events in Muswellbrook, Singleton and Newcastle to celebrate the role women play in the operation.

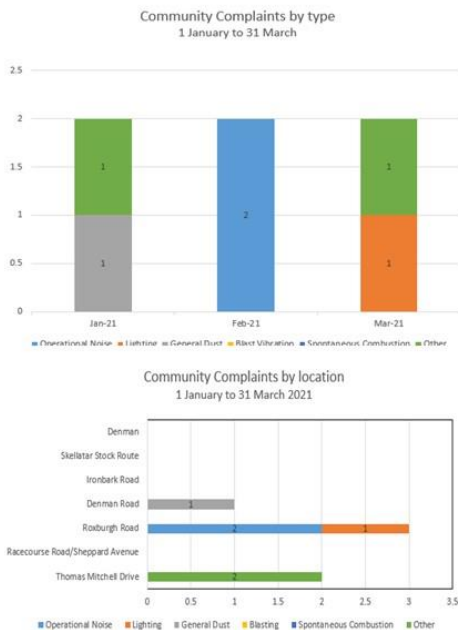
JB questioned the procedure of the minute taking and the possession of the recording. The chair confirmed the minutes are taken and recorded by the minute taker, the minute draft is then sent to the chair to edit, then sent out to the members to edit and/or approve. If more information is required, the recording can be sent to the chair. JB raised the issue of minutes being uploaded to the BHP website. He indicated that the guidelines suggested a period of 1 month to have the minutes uploaded. JB indicated that someone should have a look at the minutes on the website. He suggested that there are no minutes on the BHP website and it has been 12 months since any minutes have appeared on the website. JB said it seemed a long time for the minutes not to be uploaded. WP indicated that it should be a mechanical process to upload the minutes once they have been accepted and approved. WP responded that finding minutes on company websites has been a common problem across a number of CCCs and had been discussed at this CCC previously. WP noted that there would be an investigation into the process of getting the minutes uploaded to the website.



WP said that the CCC guidelines have a particular set of directives to approve the minutes but that he had been more a traditionalist in waiting until the next meeting to confirm the minutes by the committee. The guidelines describe the process of review by the committee however the guidelines provide the Chair with the final authority to approve the minutes. The guidelines don't require the minutes to go back to the committee after finalisation by the Chair.

## Agenda item 11: Community

### Complaints: Q3 FY21 January – March 2021



#### 6 complaints in third quarter of FY:

- 2 in January, 2 in February, 2 in March
- 6 complaints came from 4 individual residents

**By location,** of the six complaints, one was related to dust from Denman Road; two to noise and one for lighting from Roxburgh Road and two in the other category related to concerns around rubbish and cigarette butts and the other related to language used on a public two way channel.

FY21 to date = 29 complaints

**BHP**

## Engaging with community

- **Newsletter** - distributed to local key stakeholders and community members in February and April.
- **Muswellbrook Chamber and Singleton Chamber business breakfasts** - attended by BHP representatives
- **International Women's Day** - Mt Arthur Coal held and attended several events in Muswellbrook, Singleton and Newcastle to celebrate the role women play in our operation.
- **Muswellbrook Cup Race Day** - Now in our 26th year of partnership, the Muswellbrook Races are an important celebration of our support of the local equine industry.
- **Mt Arthur Coal Continuation Project** - Over 30 hours of engagement to date with near neighbours and community members.

#### Coal Community Connect Newsletter

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Mt Arthur Coal



**12. Calendar of Events:** This item was skipped to allow time for AL to present the MAC Continuation Project Update but was provided in the pre meeting papers.

**13. General Business:** The chair discussed The Hunter River Salinity Trading Scheme and raised the need to consider obtaining a representative from the Upper Hunter sector of the river to the operations committee. Call for committee membership will be opening soon.

**14. Presentation of the Mt Arthur Coal Continuation Project:** AL presented slides regarding the MAC Continuation Project. Existing open cut coal mine 100% owned by BHP. A workforce of approximately 2,000 with 75% living in Muswellbrook, Singleton and Upper Hunter. In operation since early 1960's and one of the Hunter Valley's largest individual coal production sites. Current Open Cut Planning Approval expires on the 30 June 2026. More than A\$102.5 million in royalties has been paid to the NSW Government and A\$2.82 million in mining administration levies (FY20).

Current approval for Mt Arthur Coal expires on 30 June 2026 and a new SSD approval is required for mining to continue beyond this date. The MACCP would deliver continuity and stability for MAC, its workforce as well as the communities and businesses who depend on its ongoing operation.

The MACCP proposes:

- An extension to the time limit on mining operations to 30 June 2045 (approximately 19 years).
- A reduction in the maximum approved rate of ROM coal extraction, handling and processing to 27 Mtpa (i.e. from 32 Mtpa).\*
- An increase in approved mining footprint by approximately 10%.
- Minor extensions to the existing mining infrastructure area and a new western deployment area.

*Project benefits and community support that would continue will include direct jobs and indirect jobs (i.e. continuation of up to 2,600 jobs) at the Mt Arthur Coal mine. Flow on effects for the local community and local suppliers/businesses. Royalties, export income and taxes to the State. Ongoing community support, with Mt Arthur Coal contributing the following in FY2020:*

- *Voluntarily contributed approx. \$2.5 million to the local community, via social investment and the establishment of a fund to support regional communities impacted by COVID19.*
- *Contributed over \$800,000 to Muswellbrook Shire Council through the Voluntary Planning Agreement.*

*Noise and air quality impacts will be driven by the mining rate, size and location of fleet and proximity to sensitive receivers. MACCP is moving west away from Muswellbrook and will assist with mitigating impacts in town.*

*Preliminary noise and air quality studies have informed the mining plan. Consideration and assessment of cumulative impacts of the MACCP and surrounding developments. Visual amenity will be assessed in consideration of direct (visual) and indirect (dynamic) landscape impacts. Mitigation measures for noise, blasting and air quality are currently implemented for the existing MAC operations and any updates that are required for the MACCP will be developed during the preparation of the EIS.*

*Late last year BHP made a public announcement in relation to its plans to divest its interests in its thermal coal assets, including Mt Arthur Coal. BHP is open to a range of options, including a trade sale to a trusted buyer or a demerger which would create an independent listed company. The divestment review process is still underway and is expected to take up to 24 months. On this basis, it is possible that ownership or operating control of MAC will change in the coming years. MAC is commencing the approval now, in parallel to the ongoing Divestment Review.*



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*This is because we want to deliver continuity and stability for Mt Arthur Coal, its workforce as well as the businesses and communities who depend on its ongoing operation.*

**15. Discussion with Independent Consultant:**

JB, DG, JL and WP stayed behind to discuss the positive and negatives relating to the MAC Continuation Project and mining in general. Notes were collated by an independent consultant that helps to form the first part of the government submission for the project.

**15.Next Meeting:** 15 September 2021

**16.Meeting Close:** Chair closed meeting at 12pm

**ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING**

**ACTION 1:** AL will look at why data has been out for too long and will provide information about what needs to happen to be able to fix the monitor.

**ACTIONS REMAINING OPEN FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Action	Status
Action 2 (Feb 2019): Col 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.	Site visit presentation by department representatives to be rescheduled in-line with COVID-19 requirements for site visits to Mt Arthur Coal. <b>Update: Chair to discuss with NSW Department of Planning.</b>
Action 6 (Nov 2019): WP to arrange a department representative to discuss the lighting issue and associated community impacts particularly through the provision of defining offensive lighting.	Site visit presentation by department representatives to be rescheduled in-line with COVID-19 requirements for site visits to Mt Arthur Coal. <b>Update: Chair to discuss with the NSW Department of Planning.</b>