

Mt Arthur Coal
Community Consultative Committee Meeting
15 September 2021 – Meeting held online via Webex
Community Response Line: 1800 882 044



MEMBERSHIP

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
Wanda Gunawan (WG)
Mark Nolan (MN) Manager Health, Safety, Environment
Hannah Far (HF)

Muswellbrook Council Representative

Sharon Pope Muswellbrook Council

Community Representatives

John Bancroft (JB) Community Representative 0411 068 670
Diane Gee (DG) Community Representative 0419 268 130
Jenny Lecky (JL) Community Representative 0428 189 585
Tony Lonergan (TL) Community Representative 0448 448 346

Minute taker(s)

Katie Wilkinson (KW)
Kerri Garvie (KG) (Post meeting minute recorder)

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** The meeting was held via Zoom and opened at approx. 8:47am. The chair (WP) welcomed members to the CCC meeting. The Chair (WP) spoke to JB prior to the meeting and JB informed him that he (JB) would not attend the meeting in protest about the minutes not being posted on the BHP website. WP had spoke to AM about JB’s concerns. TL was providing family support for a medical appointment. AL requested the chair please reiterate to CCC members the importance of meeting attendance. The CCC only meets four times per year with the dates set in November the year previously. The company takes this process seriously and puts a lot of effort into preparing material so it is disappointing not to have more attendees. AL asked the Chair if it is ok for a committee member not to attend a meeting in protest rather than attending the meeting and raising their concerns directly. WP responded that it was a unique approach. WP indicated that mining CCC’s appear to be having difficulty in long term community engagement, while the NSW Department of Planning was also challenged with restrictions due to COVID and some recent key personnel changes.

Apologies: Tony Lonergan, John Bancroft, Di Gee (only attended first half of the meeting)

2. **Safety:** AL updated the committee on the COVID controls. BHP place the safety of the work force and the broader community as the highest priority, particularly with the prevalence of COVID over the last few

months. The rapid antigen testing has been an overwhelming success, creating a sense of calm and safety within the team. BHP have also conducted vaccination clinics. Both testing and vaccinations are a 1st for the industry. JL commended BHP for the work they have undertaken in keeping the employees safe.

Safety Share – Leading the way with COVID controls



NEWCASTLE HERALD

BHP's Mt Arthur mine becomes the first Australian mine to provide on-site vaccinations for workers



NEWS

COVID BLOG Follow our live coverage for the latest news on the coronavirus pandemic

NSW's largest mine offers COVID vaccines to Hunter Valley staff in Australian resource sector first

ABC Upper Hunter / By Amelias Bernasconi
Posted 19h ago, updated 17h ago



Adam Lincey Mt Arthur mine general manager receives his COVID vaccine. (Supplied: BHP)

NEWCASTLE HERALD

5000 rapid antigen tests for COVID-19 administered at Hunter BHP mine Mt Arthur Coal



Safety-first: COVID-19 testing at Mt Arthur.

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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 is also paid by BHP although responsible to the Chair.
4. **Approval of the previous Meeting's Minutes:** WP stated previous minutes for the May meeting dated 12 May 2021 had been circulated and asked if there were any objections. WP indicated that in his discussion with JB just prior to the meeting he had raised a number of concerns about the minutes. Specifically, there were issues relating to Section 11 in the May minutes. There were questions regarding the bund wall and whether it would have an impact on the telephone/mobile connection, and whether there had been any complaints about it. AL indicated that any complaints would be in the Complaints register and as far as he was aware no complaints had been made. There was significant discussion about the wording of the questions JB claims should have been in the previous minutes including minute taking and minutes on the website (discussed in the Chairs report). AL made the point that minutes were not meant to capture word for word dialogue of what is actually discussed but should capture the general theme. If there was a missed point about the mobile reception AL happy for that to be reflected, however there seems to be ongoing discussion about cover ups. The Chair is independent and an independent minute taker; we (BHP) don't manipulate the minutes. WP shared the frustration but feels it is important to follow through on issues so as not to be perceived as part of some conspiracy. WP indicated we will move toward the guidelines recommended approach to finalising the minutes rather than dealing with questions on the minutes a day before the next meeting. The guidelines specify a timeline and process that allows the Chair to finalise the minutes without having to go back to the next meeting of the committee for approval. JL indicated that she considered that approval is made by the committee at the next meeting when the minutes are presented to the committee. WP agreed that the CCC guidelines were at variance to the traditional approach which we have normally taken. JL said she did not recall being asked to look and see if she had seen anything wrong with the minutes and wasn't given notice anybody had any concerns. WP clarified

that the minutes had been sent out about 3 weeks after the meeting but there had been no feedback until the last couple of days. To avoid these types of issues in the future we can move towards the guidelines recommendations.

WP accepted the minutes from the previous meeting with exception of further reviewing the tape on the issues/questions raised in Section 11 of these minutes. WP will review the tape. Following the review WP would reissue the minutes if required.

Action: WP will review the tape of the May meeting and make any changes necessary to the minutes.

5. **Matters Arising:** AM reported on Action 1 from the May meeting and the challenges BHP were having with the DC05 meter, the modem issues and communication issues, stating that the monitors were getting to a point of needing to be replaced. He then confirmed that there was work underway to replace the older equipment. A question had been asked about backups. AM stated they get as much as 75% of the data which is an acceptable data capture score and consider that the monitor is providing the data that is needed for the period. HF indicated that the issue had been covered at this and a previous meeting. On all occasions an immediate maintenance response was activated.

The remaining 2 Actions are to remain open until after lockdown.

6. **Report from the Chair:** WP spoke about the new members on the CCC and that the department have had many changes in middle management and the position of the Director of Resource Assessment had only been filled last week, and this is the person who signs off on new members to the CCC. WP is expecting this will be signed off before the next CCC meeting, and the new members should be able to attend.

Action: WP to continue to liaise with the NSW Department of Planning to obtain sign off on additional community members for the CCC.

WP also report that the guidelines for the CCC's is under review. AL added that BHP are committed to the process and are sensitive to the engagement of the CCC as MAC works through the process of renewing approvals. AL expressed frustration when we have such differences on expectations such as minutes. MAC is not getting the dialogue and engagement that MAC would like to have. While the members attending provide useful feedback which MAC takes on board and uses in its operations the CCC continues to get stuck on minor issues which don't allow the potential benefit which comes from having a CCC.

JL commented that in her early involvement in the committee she felt the committee did have a role in the assessment process of the early Bayswater mine. WP indicated that under the NSW legislation relating to projects of State significance, CCC's were not involved as a regulatory or consent authorities but were involved in the communication and consultation process. Sharon Pope from Muswellbrook Council joined the meeting at approximately 9:20am.

Sharon Pope discussed the role of the Council and stated that they were like any other member of the community and do not decide on whether a project of State significance is approved or refused. Council can have input into processes such as the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs), comment on the EIS or input into the Independent Planning Commission if one is held as part of the assessment process.

WP raised the issue of the minutes on the BHP website which JB had also raised. WP indicated that there appears to be a major sorting issue with minutes jumbled by date order. The last minutes on record was 20 May 2020. There should have been 3 more minutes uploaded. WP indicated that while JB had raised the issue previously it unfortunately fed a conspiracy narrative so it was important to fix up. AL indicated that the mix was unacceptable and couldn't express his frustration enough with the situation. AL had only just been made aware of the situation prior to the meeting. AL apologised and indicated he would become personally involved to have the situation corrected. AL wanted to work in a positive fashion with members of the CCC.

Action: Al and AM to have the BHP website corrected to reflect the appropriate order and display of approved CCC minutes.

JL indicated she came to the meetings to hear the Operations Update and land management but generally just hear about lighting issues. JL said there are other issues which need to be discussed.

AM indicated that after the last meeting the changes to the website had been communicated. The website had been fixed and updated. Screenshots had been circulated showing the corrected website, however a new update to the website has created a new problem since then.

7. **Applications, approvals, and projects:** MN went through the powerpoint presentation updating the tenements. Mining lease 1487 renewal was submitted in June 2021, and this is still being processed. Exploration licence A171 & A437 are still being assessed having been submitted in 2020.

MN also discussed the erosion, weed and feral animal control across all the properties, and the bushfire hazard reduction works. All these activities have been successful and above targets. WP asked about monitoring and evaluation of how the land comes back after the burn. MN replied that they do have monitoring as they are under a conservation agreement.

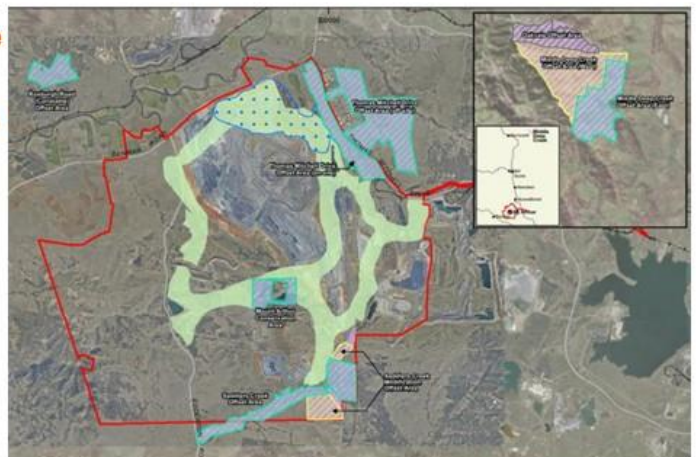
Agenda item 7: Application, Approvals & Projects

Tenement Update

- Mining Lease 1487 renewal application was submitted in June 2021 and is currently being assessed by NSW DPIE.
- Exploration licence A171 and A437 renewal applications were submitted in 2020 and are currently being assessed by NSW DPIE.

Conservation Area Management Update

- New Team (Approvals, Land, Access & Heritage) formed by a restructure in November 2021 to manage the six conservation areas.
- The team also manages HVEC's Licenced Properties
- allowing land management synergies including:
 - Weed management, feral animal control, fencing and bushfire hazard reduction.



Conservation Area Management Update

- Management Activities in 2021 include:
 - New fencing and signage at Saddlers creek and Mt Arthur.
 - Fire break slashing at all high risk areas
 - Removal of old infrastructure and internal fences.
 - Erosion control and track maintenance.
 - Feral animal monitoring and control (working with LLS)
 - Weed Control (working with local weeds officer)
 - Hazard reduction burn at Thomas Mitchell Drive Offset
 - 40 ha active regeneration work (tree planting)



Why Hazard Reduction on Conservation area?

- Asset Protection
 - Reduce the chance of wild fire impacting Thomas Mitchel Drive Industrial Estate
 - Reduce the chance of wild fire escaping onto neighbouring properties - Farms and Ironbark Ridge Estate
 - Protect our own assets fences etc.
 - Protect cultural heritage significant scare tree
- Ecological Reasons
 - Improve grassland condition
 - Pest and weed control
 - Stimulate native plant germination
 - Thin out sapling growth.



What was the result?

- Excellent hazard reduction
- Mosaic burn with excellent ecological outcomes
- 189 ha within containment lines
- 150 ha blacked out
- 39 ha unburnt creating mosaic

- Show result using drone footage.



8. **Operations update:** AL indicated that there were no significant event injuries. Production has been tracking very well, even due to the weather in July and that the coal prices have been quite good. The community engagement has continued but due to COVID has been difficult. Most interactions are through the Business Chambers while BHP continues to do what they can.

Water levels on site are strong due to the rain, but BHP is still pumping out of the river, in line with licence conditions. AL went on to talk about the construction of the Outer Pit Dump out to the west of the operation. This is still in the early days but will provide ongoing balance in the dump systems.

Dust wise, no significant issues were reported.

Agenda item 8: Operations Update

			Month -2 (A)	Month -1 (A)	Month (A)	Month (F)		YTD (A)	FY22 (B)
Safety & Sustainability	Safety	TRIF		0	2.7	4		2.7	4.3
		Recordable Injuries (RI)		2	1	0		3	0
		Occupational Illness		0	0	0		0	0
		SE Near Miss (AL0 / PL4+)		0	0	0		0	0
		SE Hazards		97	107	79		204	945
	Total Seeded Rehabilitation		0	0	0		0	43ha	
	Risk	CCE/CCV Compliance (%)		89	91	90		90	90
Exceptional Performance	Culture	Aboriginal and TS Islander Repr.(%)		5%	5.3%			5.3%	5.3
		Female Representation (%)		18%	18.2%			18.2%	21
	Volume	C2P Spatial (YTD %)		19%	64%	85%		64%	85%
		Prime Stripping North (Mbcn)		6.4	8	7.5		14.4	87.7
		Prime Stripping South (Mbcn)		4.5	4.2	3.8		8.7	44.6
		Prime Coal Uncovered (Mt)		1.6	1.7	1.3		3.3	21.4
		Saleable Coal Production (Mt)		1.2	1.5	1.3		2.7	14.97
		Truck Hours		6,018	6329	6,250		6,175	6,250
		Sales- Total Shipped (Mt)		1.18	1.45	1.4		2.63	14,911
Winning Portfolio		Free Cash Flow (US\$M)							

9. **Land management:** HF presented a powerpoint presentation on the rehab and land management. This has had lots of work done with rehab and are over target for the financial year. Some shaping and seeding had been completed across the site. Compost has been applied and ploughed in to improve soil condition. BHP are trialling the use of rain impacted hay spread across the exposed soil areas in an attempt to stabilise the soil and control any potential erosion.

Agenda item 9: Land Management



VD5 Maintenance Works

FY21 Rehabilitation Summary

- Mt Arthur Coal completed (with seed) 76.85 ha for FY21, exceeding the MOP target of 73 ha.
- This included areas in the north (VD4 and VD5), the west (new EME pad area) and south (Saddlers Central and Drayton Void).

VD4/5 Rehab Maintenance works underway

- Mt Arthur Coal has also completed 68.2 ha repair and re-work of drought impacted rehab in the VD4 and VD5 areas. This work includes:
 - Scalping to remove weeds and minimise the weed seed bank;
 - Any regrowth of weeds sprayed;
 - Repair of erosion and re-working of rock drains;
 - Application of additional gypsum;
 - Application of compost and chisel ploughing to incorporate; and
 - Re-application of a higher rate Box Gum Woodland seed mix.
- Additionally, a trial of spreading temporary stabilisation is being carried out along VD5. This trial involved spreading rain impacted hay across exposed soil to improve stabilisation.



Agenda item 9: Land Management



Drayton Void Dump Rehabilitation



10. Environment: HF discussed the air quality monitoring and stated there was not much to talk about. There was an event that was reported to the DPIE. There was no incremental exceedance for MAC against annual performance criteria for deposited dust. WP asked if there was a process of independent auditing. HF replied that they, internally, do on a continual basis. Independent Environmental audits are a comprehensive process and goes into detail around all of the environmental performances.

HF went on to discuss the ground water monitoring and the annual ground water monitoring in June. There were 6 occurrences in June that exceeded trigger levels.

Dust monitoring was discussed next. There were no exceedances during the reporting period. HF noted that there were no exceedances during the noise monitoring reporting period. This is done by an independent person and BHP have no notification on when this happens.

There was one environmental incident. One of the mine water pipelines had a failure. This water ended up on a neighbouring property. This was reported to the EPA & DPIE. A lot of work went into the clean-up. A significant number of upgrades to the high-risk pipelines has taken place.

Agenda item 10: Environmental Performance

Environmental Monitoring Results

Air Quality Monitoring (Period 1 April to 30 June)

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:
 - 15 April 2021 DC02
 - 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
 - Good performance across the reporting period (4 days across all monitors)
- 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.

Agenda item 10: Environmental Performance

Environmental Monitoring Results

Water Monitoring (Period 1 April to 30 June)

- Quarterly groundwater monitoring was conducted in April due to wet weather impacting of access to sites and delaying the monitoring in March. Annual groundwater monitoring was conducted in June.
- There were six occurrences in the June monitoring period where sampling points exceeded trigger levels. These occurrences are outlined in Table 2 within the pre read report. Expert groundwater consultants have been engaged to undertake the annual review of groundwater monitoring for the 2021 reporting year. This report will be included in the 2021 Annual Review.

Blast Monitoring (Period 1 April to 30 June)

- There have been no exceedances of the blast criteria during the reporting period.
- There has been two blasts in excess of the 5mm/s vibration limit and one blast in excess of the 115dB over pressure limit. There is an allowed exceedance of 5% of blasts for these limits over a 12 month period. The 5% criteria have not been exceeded.

Operational Noise Monitoring (Period 1 April to 30 June)

- There have been no exceedances of operational noise criteria during the reporting period.
- Monthly night time compliance monitoring (attended) was completed to schedule.

Environmental Performance

Annual Mine Operations Plan (MOP) / Forward Program Update

The Mine Operations Plan / Forward Program was communicated to the Chair on 24 June 2012 for distribution to CCC members with no comments received. The MOP / FP has been submitted and is currently with the Regulator for review and approval.

Environmental Incidents

On 5 June 2021 a mine water discharge event occurred across Denman Road on the northern boundary of MAC. This event has been reported to the relevant external parties in line with approval and licence conditions with no feedback received to date. As previously reported to the CCC, Mt Arthur is currently working through a Pollution Reduction Study (PRS) in line with the Environmental Protection Licence condition outlined below. This study will assess mine water transfer pipelines within in high risk zones against relevant criteria and provide recommendations for upgrades and improvements. Significant works on site have already begun with a number of high risk pipelines relocated, decommissioned or controlled through secondary containment.

<p>8 Pollution Studies and Reduction Programs</p> <p>U1 Review of mine water transfer pipelines</p> <p>U1.1 The Licensee must undertake a review of mine water transfer pipelines at the premises to assess the risk of pollution of waters and identify any actions or works that can be reasonably and feasibly implemented to reduce the risk. A report detailing the findings and recommending upgrades must be provided to the EPA by 24 September 2021 via email to: EPA.DeliveryHub@epa.nsw.gov.au</p> <p>The review and report must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and experienced person; assess existing mine water transfer pipelines against relevant guideline design criteria; provide a risk assessment and ranking of findings to justify recommendations; include recommendations for upgrades and improvements; include a timeline for implementation of any recommended upgrades and improvements, based on highest risk and approximate costing. <p>Note: It is the EPA's intention to formalise the recommendations of the Pollution Study into a Pollution Reduction Program.</p>

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BHP

Environmental Performance

Environmental Reporting

MAC has completed, and therefore complied with, all annual reporting requirements under licence conditions. These reports are available to view on the BHP website using the following link:

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

There have been no routine Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) or Project Approval reports to note during this reporting period.

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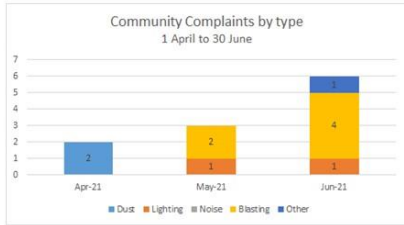
BHP

11. Community: KC updated the meeting on community complaints. There were 11 in the quarter, (36 in total for the financial year). These quarters complaints related to blasting, lighting and one about potential work opportunity. WP asked if all came through the 1800 number. KC replied that they had. She also stated that an occasional call will come into reception, or via the EPA, or via email. KC also stated that there was a decrease in complaints this year compared to last year by 33%.

Community engagement has been very little due to COVID. There have been cancellations of BHP supported local community events, which was very disappointing. BHP have attended local Business Chambers and have had school students visit the mine.

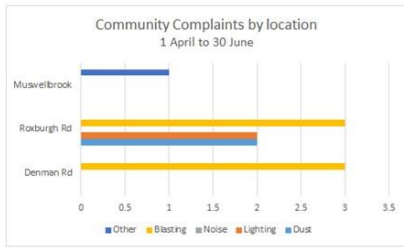
SP spoke about the fact that there could be up to 7 wind farms in the New England renewable energy precinct, which would mean lots of traffic travelling through the back roads. Muswellbrook Council are trying to co-ordinate this with the Wind Farm Company's to do this more holistically.

Agenda item 11: Community Complaints: Q4 FY21 April – June 2021



11 complaints in fourth quarter of FY:

- 2 in April, 3 in May, 6 in June
- 11 complaints came from 6 individual residents



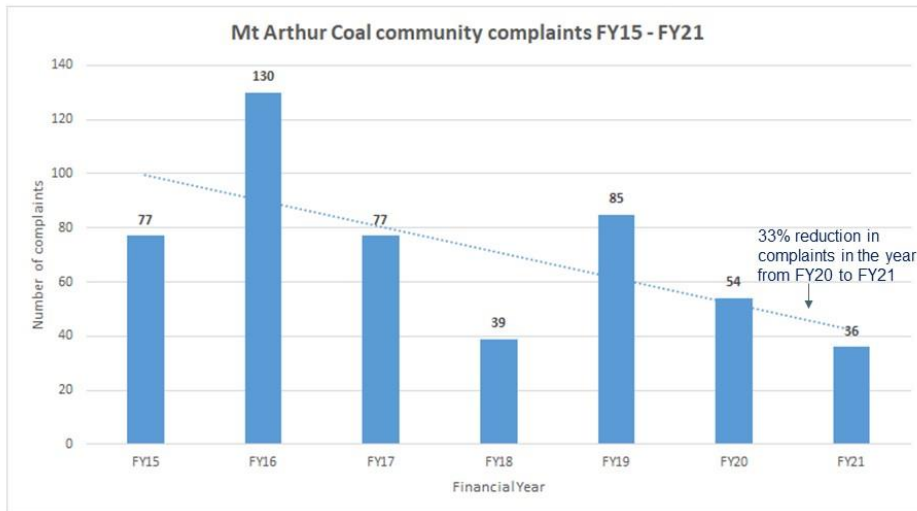
By location, of the 11 complaints:

- 6 were related to blasting activity from residents on Denman and Roxburgh Rds
- 2 were related to dust from Roxburgh Rd
- 2 were related to lighting from Roxburgh Rd
- 1 was in the "other" category and related to a concern around BHP engagement of Indigenous businesses when tendering for work at MAC.

FY21 = 36 complaints

BHP

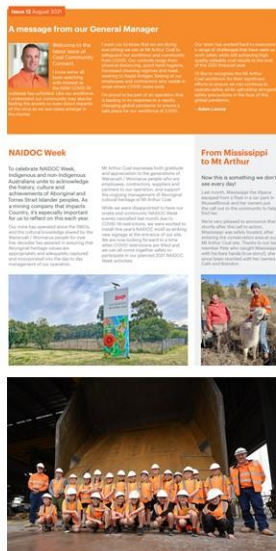
Community Complaints summary: FY21



BHP

Engaging with community

- **Newsletter** - distributed bi-monthly to local stakeholders and community members in June and August
- **NAIDOC Week** installation of 2021 NAIDOC motif to signage at entrance to our site
- **Muswellbrook and Singleton Business Chambers** - working with Chambers to support local business community through current COVID restrictions
- Supported and attended **Singleton Business Awards and Upper Hunter NAIDOC Week Awards**
- **School visits to site** - Student groups from Aberdeen Public Yr 5 and St Joseph's Denman Yr 9
- Participation in the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue's '**Meet the Buyer**' event - bringing procurement reps from the mining sector together with local suppliers
- **Mt Arthur Coal Continuation Project** - Over 50 hours of engagement to date with more than 40 key stakeholders, near neighbours and community members
- **Note:** Cancellation of BHP-supported local community events - Aberdeen Highland Games, NAIDOC Week community events, MCCI's Great Cattle Dog Muster, Westpac Helicopter Mining Charity League Day, Life Education's Hunter Soap Box Derby



BHP

- 12. Calendar of Events:** No events
- 13. General Business:** No general business
- 14. Next Meeting:** 10th November 2021 9:00am
- 15. Meeting Close:** WP closed the meeting at 10:37am

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING:

- Action 1:** WP will review the tape of the May meeting and make any changes necessary to the minutes.
- Action 2:** WP to continue to liaise with the NSW Department of Planning to obtain sign off on additional community members for the CCC.
- Action 3:** AI and AM to have the BHP website corrected to reflect the appropriate order and display of approved CCC minutes.

ACTIONS REMAINING OPEN FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Action 1 (Feb 2019): 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.
Action 2 (Nov 2019): 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.