

**MT ARTHUR MINE COMPLEX**

**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

<b>Time (PM)</b>		<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
2:00	1	Housekeeping and safety	Rob Hayes
2:02	2	Declaration of pecuniary interest	Chairperson
2:05	3	Confirmation of previous meeting minutes	Chairperson
2:10	4	Action points since last meeting	Rob Hayes
2:20	5	Key Discussion Points from Mining Dialogue	Rob Hayes
2:30	6	Overview of operations	Ross Carlson
2:40	7	Overview of Environment & Community	Rob Hayes
2:50	8	Community Development Presentation by Cindy Milton-Smith (Community Development Officer)	Shelley Masterson
3:15	9	Environmental monitoring data	Donna McLaughlin
3:25	10	Community complaints summary	Rob Hayes
3:35	11	Overview of community support	Shelley Masterson
3:45	12	General business	Chairperson
4:00	13	Next meeting date	Chairperson
4:00	14	Meeting close	Chairperson

## MT ARTHUR COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

### Minutes of Meeting (31)

**Location:** Mt Arthur Coal Boardroom  
**Date:** Wednesday 17 April 2013  
**Present:** John Bancroft (JB) Resident, Bruce Macpherson (BM) Resident, Eddie Constable (EC) Resident, Ray Webb (RW) Resident, Rob Hayes (RH) Mt Arthur Coal - Chairperson, Ross Carlson (RC) Mt Arthur Coal, Sarah Knoll (SK) Mt Arthur Coal, Donna McLaughlin (DM) Mt Arthur Coal, Christian Everitt (CE) Mt Arthur Coal, and Joanne Wilson (JW) Mt Arthur Coal, Cindy Milton-Smith (CMS) Upper Hunter Community Service Inc.

**Apologies:** Nil

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**Meeting Commenced: 2.05 pm**

#### **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

RH welcomed everyone to the Mt Arthur Coal Community Consultative Committee (CCC) 17 April 2013 meeting and apologies were received.

#### **1. HOUSEKEEPING AND SAFETY**

RH provided information on general housekeeping and safety at Mt Arthur Coal, this included:

- Entry/Exit
- Emergency Procedure
- Muster Area
- Amenities
- Tea/Coffee
- Staff update

#### **2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

No pecuniary interests were declared

#### **3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

6 February 2013 minutes moved by BM seconded by EC and carried.

#### **4. ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – MT ARTHUR COAL FEBRUARY MEETING**

**Action Item 1: Schedule a time for CCC members to view a blast. PPE to be supplied by Mt Arthur Coal.**

- CCC members viewed a scheduled Mt Arthur Coal blast on 21 February 2013 at 11am. Attendees from the CCC included Eddie Constable, Graham Guest, Raymond Webb, Bruce MacPherson, and Malcolm Ogg.

**Action Item 2: CCC members to review and discuss the June 2007 NSW Government Department of Planning Guidelines for Establishing and Operating CCCs for Mining Projects.**

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- RH - indicates that Mt Arthur Coal can present a list of names for an independent Chair and the CCC can then choose who they want to select.
- JB – Questions that the Chair has to be affiliated with the Muswellbrook Shire Council
- RH – Supplies DOP guidelines to JB
- BM – Seems to be a misunderstanding of what we should be working under and what Council sees it should be.
- RH – Reads from a letter by the NSW Department of Planning to MSC
- BM – In view of the life of the mine, suggests a select group meet and go through the relevant document and then have it endorsed (take to NSW Planning Department and Council). This will form the basis of the CCC Guidelines.
- RH – Who would the group be?
- BM – Nominated himself, John Bancroft and Rob Hayes. Bruce felt that there should not be a Council representative on the panel.
- JB – Concerned with Fair representation and balance of community and council. Would like to know as he has been appointed by the Minister if he can be stood down without his consent.
- **BM – MOTION:** *that a committee be formed for a set of guidelines for the Mt Arthur Coal CCC going forward which can be changed and amended as required. Motioned seconded by Eddie Constable. Motion carried*
- JB – Bit sceptical about where the company (MAC) current management seems to sit in relation to providing information (more/less). Feels the CCC is getting sidelined and information not flowing freely.
- RH – States the MAC is giving the option to the members of the CCC to choose if they want an independent chair.
- **BM – MOTION:** *Sub-committee be formed to recommend the next guidelines for the CCC and to meet as soon as possible with the members on this new sub-committee to be represented by Bruce MacPherson, John Bancroft and a representative from Mt Arthur Coal. Noted by Bruce MacPherson that no Muswellbrook Shire Council representative be present. Motion second by Eddie Constable. Motion Carried*

### **Action Item 3: Invite the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to a CCC meeting and think about what we would like them to discuss.**

- RH suggested that the MAC CCC invite the EPA to a meeting in the future but no date was specified. Wants the CCC to be minded to be polite within discussions around their concerns and we want a positive relationship and want them to come to meetings in the future if the CCC so desires. Discussion of date and time put back on the Actions list (**ACTION 1**).

### **Action Item 4: CF suggested that in a future meeting, RH should update members on the key discussion points from the Mining Dialogue.**

- Refer to Agenda item 5.

## 5. KEY DISCUSSION POINTS FROM MINING DIALOGUE

- RH – Presents PowerPoint presentation completed by Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue and answers questions as asked throughout the presentation (as below).

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- BM – Has issues with the land use for McLeans Hill. Wants to know why land held by MAC is not being utilised for agriculture purposes, which was once what it was traditionally used for.
- RH – All MAC land that is currently for lease is leased, but not all is being used for agriculture purposes.
- BM – MAC could be using this land more effectively.
- JB – Emissions and dust results in relation to the UHMD presentation, wants to know if MAC agrees with the information within this presentation.
- RH – Yes.
- JB – Why is the standard response when a complaint is made about dust that MAC is within its limits so there has been no breach within the mines Project Approval?
- RH – Thinks that is a standard answer recorded on the public summary. More dialogue is entered into with each complainant
- BM – Emission and health section, how many people were involved with this project?
- RH - Would think it is approximately 50 people having input.
- BM – Weather forecasting and management project, what are the aims of this section?
- RH – A project to forecast dust conditions and organise operations and blasting around this. BM – Reads out a media article in relation to increased dust levels and health problems within communities. (Passes to RH who is commits to investigate). Wants to look at the prospect of new technology.
- RC – Drayton is currently looking at this technology and running a trial on its effectiveness. RST (dust suppressant) is already used in the water tanks at MAC.
- **BM – ACTION:** Would like an Investigation/report to be provided to the CCC into dust suppressants currently used at Mt Arthur Coal and options for the use of new technologies to minimise dust within the mine and local communities **(ACTION 2)**.

### 6. OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

- Ross discussed the following as per agenda:
  - A total of 9.7 ha of land was rehabilitated during January and February 2013, including 2.6 ha in Saddlers North in January and 7.1 ha on SD2 in February.
  - An additional 25 ha of land was disturbed in February 2013.
  - Wet weather affected operations in February. Current forecast has us FY finishing approximately 6.0mBCM behind budget.
  - Reshaping of topsoil continued on CD1.
  - The total number of people employed by NSW Energy Coal (this includes Mt Arthur Coal and Caroonna) was 2,214 at the end of February 2013.
- BM – Is development going on within mining underground?
- RC – No.
- JB – Is there a possibility of changing to 8 hour shifts and have a 3 roster rotation? This would encourage more families within the Muswellbrook area and not just those who come here to work.
- RC – 80% of individuals live within 1 hour of the mine.
- JB – What is the current workforce?
- Approximately 1400.

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### 7. OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY

- RH – Reads from Environment and Community report from PowerPoint presentation.
- JB – Has MAC done any sampling of the Hunter River?
- DM – No, not of late and I was unaware that you had requested this to be done in past communications.
- RH –The only time MAC can discharge is when the river is at very high levels or flood. State Water always monitor flows, temperature and salinity of the river and this is available online
- BM – In January were there issues releasing water?
- DM – MAC has not released water this year.

### 8. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION BY CINDY MILTON-SMITH (UHSC CD WORKER)

#### *Cindy Milton-Smith joins meeting at 2.50pm*

- Cindy explains her background and her role as the newly appointed Community Development Officer with upper Hunter Community Services (UHCS Inc.).
- BM – Housing issues, what are the main areas of concern within Muswellbrook?
- CMS – Homelessness within the youth is a very concerning issue within the Muswellbrook Local Government Area. I have a four year contract and will try and provide programs which will ease this issue but also need to look at long-term programs.
- JB – Are you looking at the findings provided to Council for the 63 places (accommodation facility) at the Muswellbrook TAFE?
- CMS – Looking at making these available for both students and other non-for-profit organisations outside the teaching terms.

#### *Cindy Milton Smith leaves meeting at 3.05pm*

### 9. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING DATA

Due to time restraints within the meeting, RH referred to the section within the agenda document about the recorded environmental monitoring data.

### 10. COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

- RH – reads from PowerPoint Presentation.
- JB – It is a lot higher than normal?
- Complaints are predominately from one neighbour and have been an issue with low frequency noise. Recently complaints have been related to operational noise as well. MAC is continuing to talk to this particular neighbour on a regular basis to try and overcome these issues.
- BM – Does the mine record how much water goes out through the mine's operations?
- DM – Yes, it is reported and it does increase over the dry months
- **BM – ACTION:** Would like sample of data in relation to water usage out of the water carts on a summer verse winter basis **(ACTION 3)**.

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- RC – MAC stops operations much quicker and MAC is much more aware of the effects of dust to the community than in the past in relation to minimising dust. MAC is proud of the extra efforts that it is trying to minimise dust from its operations.

### 11. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- RH – Presents PowerPoint presentation.
- JB – Questions the amount of \$1.1M spend on the Muswellbrook Pre-School.
- SK – explains that this funding is related to the “expansion component” of the project which will see building development which will in turn creates increased places for children to attend pre-school. Anticipated increase of 30 +/- pre-school aged children.
- BM – What is available at the end?
- RH – There is a big need for pre-school care within Muswellbrook. MAC has reviewed the proposal and the pre-school have proven their capacity to manage the project. There is a broader program which is the Children Services Plan which can/will be used for future funding in other locations for similar needs.

### 12. GENERAL BUSINESS

- RH – Explains that the Community Function is now within the Department of External Affairs and no longer part of Environment. Attendees of the meeting will change.
- BM – When does Shelley leave?
- SK – Her last day at MAC is Friday 3 May 2013.
- JB – On page 6 of the agenda, can you please explain the exceedance result in regards to the South Muswellbrook monitor?
- DM – Captured the highest peak over the 40 second period, the result was wind rather than overpressure
- JB – On page 10 and 14 why is there a discrepancy within this data?
- **DM - ACTION:** I will investigate the difference in reporting results and get back to your next meeting. **(ACTION 4).**
- JB – Feels that no one is taking responsibility for the cumulative impacts on dust and where dust is originally generated from. Finds it hard that you have 24 hour monitoring systems in place and yet cannot tell me results at a particular time?
- RH – Reports are written in accordance with consent requirements. For example, dust reported on a 24 average not at a specific time and within limits. Reports are written for regulators and the specific requirements which are important for their monitoring requirements.
- BM – Request as inspection of Bayswater 2 and 3 (not a CCC meeting date) to look at the rehabilitation.
- Explains (with use of map) current works that are being undertaken within this area but will look at organising a date to view this area. Date to be Thursday 16 May at 9am.
- **DM – ACTION:** CCC View rehab Bayswater 3 16 May 9am **(ACTION 5).**

### 13. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Mt Arthur Coal Community Consultative Committee meeting is proposed to be held on Wednesday 5 June 2013 at 2 pm in the Mt Arthur Coal boardroom.

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Meeting Closed: 4.30pm

ACTION ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTIONED BY
1	Invite the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to a CCC meeting and think about what we would like them to discuss.	RH
2	BM would like an Investigation/report to be provided to the CCC into dust suppressants currently used at Mt Arthur Coal and options for the use of new technologies to minimise dust within the mine and local communities.	RH
3	BM would like sample of data in relation to water usage out of the water carts on a summer verse winter basis.	RH
4	Investigate discrepancy in data page 10/14	DM
5	CCC View rehab Bayswater 3 16 May 9am	DM