

Mt Arthur Coal
Community Consultative Committee Meeting
17 February 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
Kim Carlson (KC) Corporate Affairs Specialist - Community
Jimmy Nixon (JN) Environment Specialist
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
Macy Brady (MB) Minute taker

- 1. Welcome and Apologies:** The meeting was held at the Muswellbrook Community Centre and opened at approx. 9:05am. The chair (WP) welcomed members to the CCC meeting and introduced the minute taker (MB) and new member (HF)
Apologies: Tony Lonergan and Diane Gee (Community Representatives)
- 2. Safety:** AL had a celebration safety share regarding a positive milestone for the truck maintenance team achieving four years injury free onsite, this has been shared more broadly throughout the workforce.
- 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 November meeting dated 9 November 2020 had been circulated and asked if there were any objections, everyone agreed they were a true record of the meeting.
- 5. Matters Arising:** AM noted that scheduling dates for 2021, Water license rights, confirmation of where the compost has been sourced from, request to change the scattering of dust graphs in the pre read had been attended to in the minutes.

6. **Report from the Chair:** WP spoke about the announcement of the mayor of Muswellbrook resigning. WP indicated that he would continue his efforts to obtain consistent representation from Muswellbrook Council on the CCC. WP had been informed that, following a decision of council, future CCC meetings would be attended by council staff rather than Councillors however this still needs to be confirmed in correspondence. WP also noted that with the change in minute secretariat we will continue to be diligent in the recording of the minutes. WP indicated that NSW government departments were still taking a COVID-19 safe approach, however he will explore the potential of having a face to face visit with departmental representatives this year. WP also informed the CCC that the CCC Annual Report for 2019 had been submitted to department prior to Christmas.
7. **Applications, approvals, and projects:** AM discussed the Powerpoint presentation and explained that MAC had renewed the exploration licence on the 23 December 2020 for a further term until 15 July 2026. There were a further two exploration licences that have been submitted and are currently being accessed. MAC's renewal for the primary mining licence will be submitted this year. AL commented that MAC are entering a reasonably important phase for Mt Arthur regarding renewal of the development consent and emphasised the importance of the representation and attendance at the CCC meetings.
8. **Operations update:** AL presented slides FY20 Operations update report and noted there was one significant event recorded (Haul truck not appropriately parked rolling 60 metres) and one reportable injury (Crushed finger whilst using a light vehicle trailer) There have been 2 community complaints bringing the year to date number to the month of January to nineteen.

The current Mining Locations were provided and AL discussed in further detail the associated map. JB asked for further detail regarding the height of dump area and the plans to help avoid light pollution. AL and DW explained where the trucks go with regards to the dump.

JN explained the property and water licenses and showed a map to further explain the coal property ownership. He discussed that HVEC manages approx. 7000ha of farmland which includes 23 houses across 26 license agreements and that they manage 2500ha of offset land and all farmland licence agreements include water license allocations to allow the properties to be managed productively.

AL provided an overview of MAC's performance indicators. WP sought clarification with what items in the slide could be reported due to commercial in confidence. AL clarified what indicators could be included and what not to include to keep confidential information protected. Both parties understood that the information shared is trusted information for the CCC.

9. **Land management:** JN presented slides about FY21 Rehabilitation summary, so far 18.6ha has been completed and a further 28.6ha in VD4, VD5 area. Compost continues to be used for all establishment and repair works and is sourced from BetterGrow. JN also noted we are moving into the dog trapping time of the year (March, April and May) and weed management work is ongoing. JN showed slides with photos to show the CD2 area that was completed last year as well as the VD4, VD5 area rehab maintenance where a total of 68.2ha has been scalped to remove weeds. The site water management plan has been updated in February and will be up on the website. JB spoke about better options for the layout of the water bore location map, JN suggested some options and is going to work on the graphs to make them easier to read and cross reference. JB also asked if they have modelled the bores in relation to the location of the mining, JN discussed that they update this every two years and update it off the mine plan and where the pit is. JN noted that the mine operations plan will come out for consideration to the CCC over the next couple of months prior to the next meeting via hard copy/ email. MAC will need comments back prior to the next meeting.

10. Environment: JN presented slides about MAC's environmental performance, there was one environmental event during the reporting period had some rehabilitations in the CD2 dump and will return that to a state that is inline with the rehabilitation plan. JN gave an update on the blast exceedance investigation, a single blast that exceeded a vibration limit of 50mm per second for infrastructure (Powerlines) the department completed their investigation and were issued a warning from Mt Arthur and they are now introducing an initial approval process for blast designs completed by third parties prior to releasing them to an execution phase. Documentation has also been updated to make it extra clear of limits and how to manage them in relation to infrastructure. The department was happy with this action plan. JN noted that all their reporting requirements have been published on their website.

11. Community: KC presented slides about community complaints. From the 1st July to the end of September there was 7 complaints and in this quarter there have been 12 complaints 6 in October, 4 in November, 2 in December. A total of 19 complaints FY21 to date. The 6 lighting complaints came from Roxburgh Rd (5) and Skellatar Stock Route (1) residents. Three blast complaints came from Roxburgh Rd residents. Three blast complaints came from Racecourse Road (1), Denman Rd (1) and via a report from a resident to the NSW EPA (1).

JB questioned the amount of information given about the investigation and response to the caller. AL can give more information to the caller although the public response is a summary. JL sought clarification of the process when a complaint is made. AL clarified that it is communicated to the team that when a complaint is made it is addressed and dealt with appropriately and that the individual is made aware that they do care about fixing the issue. AL spoke about the importance of preventing lighting complaints and that there are plans to build a buffer/ shield to help with this. JB requested more information be included in the summary of complaints such as the type of lighting causing the complaint. AL indicated that the level of detail is available however it is not put on the public website.

KC discussed community engagements, Newsletter was distributed in October and December, BHP representatives attended breakfast at Muswellbrook and Singleton council chambers. \$17 000 donated by employees, family, friends, and colleagues to the Movember fundraiser. KC discussed the celebrations held at Mt Arthur for Naidoc week along with the new artwork done by a local artist Matt Stair that has been installed on Mt Arthur's Coal's prominent conveyer gantry to welcome guests entering the site.

KC spoke about the recognition from Muswellbrook Race Club for Mt Arthurs 25 years sponsorship with an award presented by Godolphin's manager John Sunderland and Chairman of the Race Club, presented to the senior leadership team. The Big Issue also visited the site to celebrate the 3-year partnership with TBI magazine which helped establish them in Newcastle and the Hunter as a street selling program that supports local disadvantaged people. JB asked if the Big Issue sellers were able to hand back unsold issues without incurring a penalty. KC also reported there had been a \$2.2 Million spend in the quarter through the Local Buying Program.

AL spoke about recruiting more members for the CCC meeting and the importance of having good representation from the community. There was broad discussion about how to generate more interest in participating in the CCC including the development of a communication strategy. JL raised the topic about where the Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPA) money goes, AL clarified this and spoke about the process with council. JB and JL expressed concern that VPA money was being used for roads and not on approved projects.

JB and JN discussed potential ways to improve the presentation of the dust/air quality graphs which had been raised at a previous meeting. Further refinements were to be pursued.

12. Calendar of Events: AM noted that the Upper Hunter Show, raised money for Westpac helicopter, charity rugby league day and Muswellbrook race club event for support are all coming up. These are listed in the newsletter.

13. General Business: No General business.

14. Next Meeting: 12 May 2021 9:00am

15. Meeting Close: WP closed the meeting at 11:20am

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

ACTION 1: JN is going to review better formatting and scaling of Graphs.

ACTION 2 JN is going to send out pdf version of the water licence map via email

ACTION 3: AM will investigate and report on whether people who sell “The Big Issue” are responsible for paying for unsold issues or whether they can be returned to the publisher without incurring financial penalties.

ACTIONS REMAINING OPEN FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Action	Status
Action 1- AM to set dates for CCC meetings next year and circulate the schedule for 2021 meetings to the CCC. Next meeting (Feb 2020) to be held offsite.	AM set dates and the CCC meeting was held offsite, in Muswellbrook.
Action2- JN to provide list of BHP owned properties and water license/rights in the area.	Completed- JN provided a map to indicate BHP owned properties, along with a list of property and water use summary.
Action 3- JN to confirm where compost is being sourced from.	Completed- JN confirmed compost is sourced from BetterGrow – https://www.bettergrow.com.au/
Action 4- JN to change the scale on the dust graph to make the level clearer.	JN to make changes to graphs to make it clearer to read.
Action 5- JN to include a map of the ground water monitoring site when ground water monitoring results are reported to the CCC.	Completed- Map of the ground water monitoring site is provided.
Action 6- JN to provide an update on the blast exceedance investigation at the next meeting.	JN provided an in-depth update on the blast exceedance.