

MT ARTHUR MINE COMPLEX
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday 17 October 2012

Time		Agenda item	Responsibility
5:00	1	House keeping and safety	MAC
	2	Declaration of pecuniary interest	Chairperson
	3	Confirmation of previous meeting minutes	Chairperson
5:10	4	Action points since last meeting	MAC
5:15	5	Overview of operations	MAC
5:25	6	Levee bank planning - progress update	MAC
5:40	7	Mt Arthur Coal Modification Project	MAC
6:10	8	Overview of Environment & Community	MAC
6:20	9	Environmental monitoring data	MAC
6:30	10	Community complaints summary	MAC
6:40	11	Overview of community support	MAC
6:45	12	General business	Chairperson
7:00	13	Next meeting date	Chairperson
7:00		Meeting close	Chairperson

MT ARTHUR COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting (28)

- Location:** Mt Arthur Coal Projects Office
- Date:** Wednesday 17th October, 2012
- Present:** Ray Webb (RW) Resident, Travis Warren (TW) Mt Arthur Coal, Julie McNaughton (JM) Mt Arthur Coal, Bruce Macpherson (BM) Resident, Nathan Donegan (ND) Mt Arthur Coal, Mike Gale (MG) Mt Arthur Coal, Sarah Knoll (SK) Mt Arthur Coal, Craig Flemming (CF) Muswellbrook Shire Council, Graham Guest (GG) Resident, Sarah Bailey (SB) Mt Arthur Coal, Eddie Constable (EC) Resident, Kate-Lee Taggart (KT) Mt Arthur Coal, Rob Hayes (RH) Mt Arthur Coal, Christine Phelps (CP) Chairperson, John Bancroft (JB) Resident
- Apologies:** Martin Rush (MR) Deputy Chairperson,
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Meeting Commenced: 4:02 pm

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

JL welcomed everyone to the Mt Arthur Coal Community Consultative Committee (CCC) 17th October 2012 meeting and apologies were received.

2. HOUSEKEEPING AND SAFETY

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

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

3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No pecuniary interests were declared

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

August minutes moved by RW seconded by BM

5. ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Mt Arthur Coal August Meeting

Action Item 1: Review request to investigate relationship between blast vibration results and distance at monitors in a direct line from blasts (e.g. data from BP06 & BP04 when blasting on Denman Rd).

Rolled over until December meeting **(ACTION ITEM 1)**

Action Item 2: Decide on date of visit to Edinglassie at next meeting

JM advised it was best to wait until after foaling season, and that a time February would be better. CCC agreed and advised a visit to the Levee Bank would also be of value. **(ACTION ITEM 2)**

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Action Item 3: MR and JM to discuss Community investment commitments offline in order to establish what information will satisfy the CCC in this area.

CF enquired as to the details of the community investment fund for spend, total projects, timings etc.

JB re-iterated the question.

JM acknowledged previous attempts to satisfy the CCC with information regarding community spend where unsatisfactory.

MAC committed to doing another presentation to the CCC on FY11 spend against the \$4 million figure advertised. Also it is to include a presentation on pipeline of community projects for the current 2012 period. **(ACTION ITEM 3)**

JB enquired about further details of the fund and how it would be spent within the community.

JM took on notice details of a joint committee set up to spend \$500,000, and committed to getting back to the CCC on members. **(ACTION ITEM 4)**

CP stated that actions arising from the committee should be communicated by council to the residents.

Action Item 4: Investigate whether another noise monitoring site may be needed further south in residential estate in Muswellbrook.

JM advised CCC that MAC had engaged an external noise specialist to advise whether additional noise monitoring sites are needed. JM informed CCC that MAC would be adding an additional monitoring site at the location, and results would be compared with adjacent monitoring sites to see if any substantial difference is evident.

JM also advised that if there was substantial difference the site would be made permanent, if not it would be removed from the monitoring program.

Action Item 5: Determine if ash content and combustible materials were required to be shown in the monthly monitoring on the internet under POEO requirements.

JM informed the CCC that there was no requirement for MAC to publish ash content and combustible matter under the POEO requirements. MAC will continue to publish total insoluble matter in regards to depositional dust results.

Action Item 6: Provide update on progress of removing old fence along Denman Road.

BM enquired as to the repairs needed in the new fence opposite Edinglassie.

JM informed BM that there was an incident where a vehicle has backed through the fence. Temporary repairs are currently in place before permanent repairs are made.

6. OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS

RH presented the overview of operations which included:

- Equipment continued to be delivered (Hitachi 3600 excavator and truck/ancillary fleet).
- Production was affected due to weather (rain, dust, fog etc) during July and August,
- 20 hectares of dump reshaping around site during July and August.
- Unlocking of Modular mining system continued on the overburden fleet,
- Year to date overburden target on budget.

The total number of people employed by NSW Energy Coal was 1,537 Full time employees as of the end of August.

7. OVERVIEW OF CUT OFF TRENCH AND LEVEE BANK PROJECT

ND presented the overview which included:

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- Required prior to mining to protect against connectivity of the pit with the Hunter River Alluvial soils (both against unlicensed water draw and stability of the highwall)
 - Required to protect against river flood
 - Behind black fence
 - Between 2m and 5m high earth bank depending on gully or ridge
 - Crest at 141m RL for flood protection
 - Only light vegetation (grasses) able to be planted on bank
 - 2.5m wide Access track between fence and toe of levee bank
 - Constructed to the weathered rock through the Hunter River alluvial clays, sands and gravels above
 - Trench about 0.6-0.8m wide
 - Soil-bentonite clay slurry
 - Initial thin bentonite clay slurry to stabilise the trench during construction
 - Final soil and bentonite clay blended to backfill trench
 - Wall remains flexible and ultra low permeability
 - Are a tried and tested way to control groundwater and have been used in many applications including at another local mine to contain groundwater in alluvial soils.
 - No visual component of the cut off trench will be evident (covered with levee)
- JB enquired as to the life of the cut off trench.
 ND stated it would be at least until end of mining operations.
 JB objected to the project encroaching on the alluvials.
 BM raised issue of traffic at junction of Edderton Rd and Denman Rd.
 CP suggested the RTA traffic committee would be the place to raise the issue.
 BM also stated that many people in mine vehicles drove wrecklessly in the area.
 RH suggested to BM to report the incident to MAC so he could follow up if it was indeed people in mine vehicles.
 CP committed to writing a letter on behalf of the CCC to the traffic committee in relation to traffic at the intersection. (**ACTION ITEM 5**)

8. OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY

JM presented the overview of Environment and Community and informed the committee of the following:

- On 18 July during a site inspection by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) they noted excessive dust coming off two drills operating in the pit. EPA issued a penalty notice in August.
- During July and August some loading operations were stopped due to dust.
- Approval of management plans during August by Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I):
 - Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan
 - Site Water Management Plan
 - Site Water Balance
 - Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
 - Surface Water Monitoring Program
 - Groundwater Monitoring Program
 - Surface and Ground Water Response Plan
- DP&I completed the annual inspection 17 July and additionally on 27 July inspected the oil separator system. "The Department considers that the 2011 Annual Review (AEMR) generally satisfies the majority of requirements of Condition 3, Schedule 5 of Project Approval 09-0062."

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- Warning letter from DP&I (06 September) regarding unacceptable dust generation from the operation on 5 September 2012.
- Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (UHMD) meetings:
 - Local Employment Forum - 12 June 2012. In response to stakeholder views expressed at the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Workshop in July 2011, NSWMC agreed to explore the issues surrounding local employment. Following a review of mining company data, NSWMC held a forum to share information with the community about how local mining companies are employing local people, especially in apprenticeship and traineeships.
 - Social Impacts and Infrastructure Workshop: 31st July. Angela Fiumara (Head of External Affairs) and Shelley Masterson (Superintendent Community) attended.
 - Land Management stakeholder workshop held on the 30 July.
 - Water Management stakeholder workshop held on 23 August.

JB noted that in relation to the recent penalty notice received by MAC that it was insufficient to address poor compliance and that MAC would continue to do as it pleased.

JB stated that he heard loud noises he thought came from a blast. He left a message for MAC that was not returned for 2 weeks.

JB also noted he rang several other nearby operations and was unable to get a satisfactory answer.

JM advised that all residents wishing to make a complaint need to ring the complaints line to ensure a quick and adequate response, not personal phones as those people may be away at that time.

JM also noted that it is not the community member's responsibility to follow-up with other operations. MAC would do that as part of their internal investigation into the complaint.

BM enquired as to the reasoning that operations cant tell residents of the blast.

JM stated MAC had no issues in telling people when we planned to blast, but that the timings of the planned blasts can vary substantially.

CF noted that if MAC were to have social media that told people when they were blasting it would help keep people informed.

JM noted that internal BHP requirements would not allow this.

BM noted that plans to blast on Saturdays could be an issue for local residents especially when travelling to and from sport at the hours of 2-3pm.

JM noted the feedback.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING DATA

BM enquired about the exceedance of gauge DD08 on pg19 stated to be a localised event.

JM advised it was as a result of cattle scratching against the gauge.

CP enquired about the status of TARPS.

RH explained that for predictive dust modelling each site is unique and that a trial phase was necessary. This may last 12-18 months.

10. UPDATE ON GROWTH STRATEGY-OPEN CUT MODIFICATION PROJECT

SB (Approvals Manager) presented the update which included the following:

- Planning Approval for the Mt Arthur Coal Consolidation Project was granted in 2010.
- Further detailed mine and infrastructure planning has identified opportunities to improve the mine's operational efficiency.

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- A modification to the Planning Approval is sought under Section 75W of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.
- a four year extension to the open cut mine life from 2022 to 2026 at the currently approved maximum rate of 32mtpa and an increase in the area used for the mine's operations of approximately 400 hectares (227 ha of disturbance outside the current approved disturbance boundary);
- use of existing conveyor corridor to place overburden;
- duplication of existing rail loop and increase in the number of maximum trains from 12 to 19 per day;
- relocation of the load point of the overland coal conveyor from Mt Arthur Coal to Macquarie Generation;
- relocation and upgrade of the explosives storage facility;
- minor infrastructure improvements including extending the site's Administration building, CHPP Offices and control room; and
- a small extension to the ROM stockpile area within the site's existing approved capacity.

CP enquired as to how close Mac were going to Mt Arthur. She stated that there would be significant community angst.

JM advised that the current conservation area of Mt Arthur will not be impacted with the modification.

CF enquired about changes covered in the mod.

CP enquired about noise assessments for Iron Bark Ridge and if they had been included in the EA.

SB stated that sites in the area had formed part of the EA and a representative sample had been taken from the estate.

CP stated that this is necessary as it is an approved development.

JM described the MAC consolidation process for noise modelling and stated that it remained consistent for this modification.

CP enquired as to what the mining process is and why voids cannot be eliminated from the landscape.

RH advised about the mining process and why voids were necessary. He also commented that the regulatory system drove this landform as the consent assumed full production until a sudden shutdown.

CF advised that even if mining stopped today a bond was lodged with the government to rehabilitate the mine.

RH advised the bond was for the rehabilitation described in the Mining Operations Plan (MOP) and that it was for that indicative period.

11. COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

JM confirmed there had been 102 community complaints YTD.

	Antiene	Castle Rock Rd	Denman Rd	Muswellbrook	Racecourse Rd	Skelleter Stock Route/Thomas Mitchell Drive	Other	Total
Blasting			4	1	1		1	7

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	Antiene	Castle Rock Rd	Denman Rd	Muswellbrook	Racecourse Rd	Skelletar Stock Route/Thomas Mitchell Drive	Other	Total
Dust			2					2
Noise			1		5			6
Lighting								0
Other			2					2
Cumulative Total 2012	5	0	27	7	47	1	8	102
Cumulative Total 2011								91

12. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

SK presented the update which included:

Reconciliation Action Plan

- Document formalised
- Aboriginal mentoring network (internal) commenced

Investment

- Polly Farmer Foundation: \$30 000 for FY13.
- Community Capacity Building and Collaboration Project: more than \$1m over 4 years to Upper Hunter Community Services and Muswellbrook Shire Council for two Community Development Worker positions.
- Community Development Fund Round 2: currently reviewing applications from Sept Round.

Engagement

- Saturday Blasting: undertaking consultation around impacts of blasting on Saturdays
- Community Perceptions Survey:
- Undertaken in November by Plan C.
- Additional engagement workshops planned on the 8th and 9th of November at the Muswellbrook Arts Centre.
- We invite your participation to provide feedback on our investment and engagement with the community.

Complaints and Grievance Procedures Review (by Coakes Consulting)

- Final interviews undertaken 8-12 October.
- Report will be due out next month.

13. GENERAL BUSINESS

CF discussed impinging dust gauges.

JM advised CCC it would be her last CCC as she has resigned.

JB and BM stated that the feedback in recent times in the CCC had been great and JM support in this was appreciated.

14. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Mt Arthur Coal Community Consultative Committee meeting is proposed to be held on Wednesday 5th December 2012 at 4 pm in the Mt Arthur Coal boardroom.

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Next joint CCC meeting to be determined.

Meeting Closed: 7:30pm

ACTION ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTIONED BY
1	Review request to investigate relationship between blast vibration results and distance at monitors in a direct line from blasts (e.g. data from BP06 & BP04 when blasting on Denman Rd).	RH
2	Finalise date for visit to Edinglassie and the Cut-Off Trench	CCC
3	Present to the CCC on FY11 spend against the \$4 million figure advertised. Also it is to include a presentation on pipeline of community projects for the current 2012 period.	RH
4	Give information on details of a joint committee between Mt Arthur Coal and the Council, set up to spend \$500,000 within the community	RH
5	On behalf of the CCC write a letter to the RTA regarding the intersection of Denman Rd and Edderton Rd.	CP