

Mt Arthur Coal
Community Consultative Committee Meeting
9 November 2020
Community Response Line: 1800 882 044



Attendance

Chairperson

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

BHP Representatives

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| Adam Lancey (AL) | General Manager BHP Mt Arthur Coal |
| Andrew Marsh (AM) | Corporate Affairs Specialist - Community |
| Jimmy Nixon (JN) | Environment Specialist |
| Damien Williams (DW) | Manager Mine Scheduling |
| John Aurisch (JA) | C-RES (Local Buying Program) |

Community Representatives

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

Mike Threadgate (MT) Minute taker

- 1. Welcome and Apologies:** The meeting was held in Mt Arthur Coal Board Room and opened at approx. 9:20am. The Chair (WP) welcomed members to the CCC meeting.
Apologies: Mark Bowditch (Council)
- 2. Safety:** COVID-19 safety measures for the meeting were explained. The committee was reminded that the meeting was being recorded.
- 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 (MT -Final Form Regeneration) is also paid by BHP although responsible to the Chair (declared 13 May 19).
- 4. Approval of the previous Meeting's Minutes:** WP confirmed that the minutes for the August meeting dated 14 August 2020 had been circulated and called for formalisation of member acceptance. There was discussion about whether the questions asked about COVID leave taken by staff of the Upper Hunter Community Centre was accurately recorded. It was agreed to amend the minutes in Agenda Item 11 "Community" to add the following: "The question was asked whether any staff of Upper Hunter Community Services (UHCS) did not get paid during the COVID lockdown. The UHCS staff responded that some staff had to take annual leave. BHP Corporate Affairs to obtain further information about how the money to UHCS was allocated."
- 5. Matters Arising:**
It was noted that the Greyhound Bus run through town will cease. AL noted issues with signage compliance, previously discussed, and corrections were made. The bus run is to cease due to changes in staffing arrangement.

6. Report from the Chair:

WP noted AM has taken over the role of Corporate Affairs Specialist – Community since the last meeting from Leah Scheepers who has returned to Queensland.

WP also suggested moving the next meeting offsite from BHP to make access to the meeting simpler.

WP noted that the Annual Report of the CCC to the NSW Department of Planning had been drafted and circulated to members. This report will be submitted to the Department shortly. Tentative agreement was made to make the next meetings on a Wednesday or Thursday to allow all community members to attend. WP noted there are ongoing efforts to contact the Department to engage in further discussion on dust and lighting issues.

7. Applications, approvals and projects:

AL noted the Edderton Rd relocation was opened 7 October 2020, stage two is moving forward with a further 1.75kms to be completed on the Southern end, it will include the upgraded access to BHP Mt Arthur Coal, the access upgrade has been commenced with the Section 138 permit from Council received. The intersection of Denman Road and Thomas Mitchel Drive is underway with planning and design being worked through with Council. There is an approximately 18-month time frame to start the project which is a collaboration between Mt Arthur Coal and two other mines.

8. Operations update:

AL presented slides/Financial Year (FY) Report where shown, AL noted positive Safety Report for first FY quarter. Lower injuries reported, one Significant Event reported (heavy vehicle, light vehicle near miss due to light vehicle operating at night without flashing light). No environmental incidents. Seven community complaints (covered later).

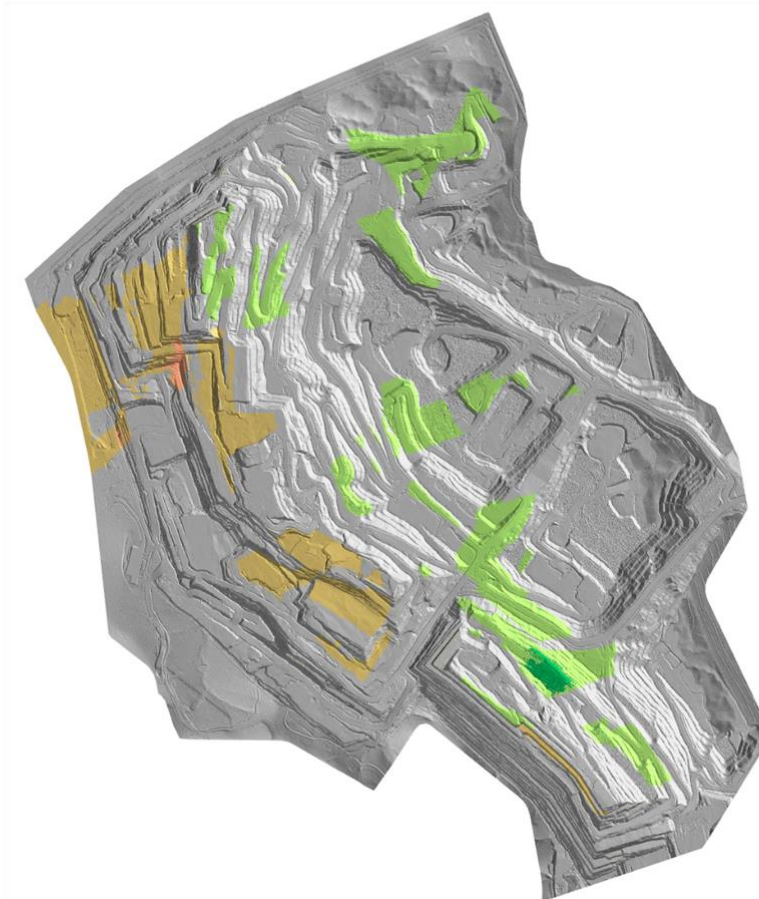
There have been 17 Ha of rehabilitation work completed in the quarter, with a target of 73 Ha for the FY, rehabilitation work remains the focus for the Environmental Team. Production: sales were impacted in the quarter due to typhoons impacting on shipping. Strong production has been impacted by a very challenging market environment, given the present coal prices. Some China shipments have been impacted with the current diplomatic situation between Australia and China and the market is soft.

WP sought clarification as to what items in the slides from the Report could be reported due to commercial in confidence. AL agreed that the slides could be redacted and reported allowing for confidential information to be protected. Parties understood that the information shared was trusted information for the CCC for the benefit meetings and information sharing. JB thanked AL for the provision of this information.

9. Land management:

The “heat map” showing pit activity was provided. The map showed the plan for the entire year. Denman Rd visual bunds were discussed as the bund has been commenced and will be continued this year.

Heat Map – Mt Arthur – FY21



JN presented the environment update and noted that the 17Ha of rehab had been seeded in the FY to date. Key focus for this month is 24Ha of compost spreading to be undertaken. The view is to improve soil quality for plantings in March next year. The question was asked as to where the compost was sourced. JN can provide information on the supplier of compost if required.

A trial burn was undertaken on VD1 for ER response and environmental outcomes on VD1. On the day it was green and wet and it was not the best outcome for the burn. Location was on southern section of VD1. A further trial is planned.

Air quality was discussed. There was one day of elevated PM10 levels above 50µg/m³ recorded and reported to the Regulator. There were a couple of performance issues with the monitoring stations. As per the previous meetings request of JB, JN showed slide graphs of the air quality reports with guidance statements to clarify the graphs. The graphs form and keys were discussed to make it simpler for the community to understand the graphs. Data scales were discussed and agreed that a change could be made to make the dust levels recorded easier to see on the graph. JN indicated that a change in scale can be made to be tailored for each CCC meeting.

WP asked JN whether the Department assesses the contributors to the dust. JN explained that BHP reports to the Regulator any exceedances over 50µg/m³ recorded as would all the other mines. The Regulator looks at the overall conditions of a particular day to assess the cumulative impacts of dust. Other mines information is provided directly to the Regulator.

Dust monitor arc influences of origin was explained in daily and hourly averages, wind directions for dust levels and alerts from monitors where included in report. The map in the pre-read was examined.

One blast vibration exceedance and 9 occurrences of water quality were reported to the Regulator. Water levels and quality was discussed in terms of information available in the report to CCC. WP asked if a map of the groundwater monitoring sites could be included in future papers with any groundwater monitoring results presented to the CCC. Salinity levels and instrument drift in measurements and sample methodology were discussed and explained. Data loggers are being installed at groundwater monitoring locations to enable remote monitoring of standing water levels.

10. Environment:

The bore locations of intersecting aquifers to be monitored was also discussed as were Department reviews and groundwater modelling and monitoring. The Water Management Plan is with the Regulator for Review and endorsement with new criteria for the next 3 years.

One Blast event during the last quarter exceeded the vibration limit of 50 (52-54) (mm per second frequency) on site around some infrastructure and was reported to the Regulator. This blast possibly effected TransGrid powerlines. BHP is working with the Regulator and TransGrid on this issue. JN to provide an update at the next meeting.

11. Community:

AM presented his report, introduced the mine tour happening that day and JA who would be presenting from Local Buying Program (C-Res). AM advised that there were 7 complaints for the quarter from the community, 2 in July, 4 in August and 1 in September from 5 individual residences. Five of the complaints were lighting complaints from residents located on Roxburgh Rd (1), Denman Rd (2) and Ironbark Rd (2). There was also a noise complaint from Roxburgh Rd and a dust complaint from Denman Rd that was received via the Regulator.

AL reported that BHP took Thiess management out to the Ironbark Rd area at night to make them aware of the impacts of the operations on that area and community with regard to lighting. It was a good opportunity to make them aware of the effects of the operations and to work to rectify those issues in sensitive areas.

JB addressed some further issues with regard to visible lights at night and covered the history of the lighting complaints and policy requirements that continue to be problematic. AL explained the issues around the lighting is a challenge that is being taken seriously and is addressed on each occasion. Back to back nights of complaints appearing to be from the same lights were discussed.

It was noted that the mine tour being undertaken on the day was to help demonstrate to the members the operations of the pit, the challenges faced with lighting and controls put in place so as to not impact on the community.

There was a discussion as to the community's ability to make complaints to BHP and Department regarding dust and lights.

AM reported on the Apprenticeship Program. During the quarter 400 plus locals applied for the positions. AM noted through the Vital Resource Fund, Hunter Park Family Centre, Mt Arthur was able to assist in resourcing for the community.

JA gave a presentation update and overview on the Local Buying Program (LBP) through C-Res in NSW. LBP is in partnership with BHP that links BHP with local small businesses. There are about 120 suppliers on board in the system. The Local Buying Foundation was also introduced to the members.

DG requested a list of BHP owned properties and water licences in the area. JN indicated he can provide that information at the next meeting.

12. Calendar of Events:

Local Voices Survey is continuing. The end of year event may be difficult with COVID considerations for gatherings (attendees would be required to remain seated rather than being able to stand and mingle in the usual relaxed style) and BHP are looking at changing the format to visiting people rather than getting everyone together.

13. General Business:

No general Business.

14. Next Meeting:

Wednesday 17 February 2020 at 9:00am. (TBC)

15. Meeting Close:

WP closed the meeting at 11:50am

After the meeting the CCC attended a site tour.

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

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.

ACTION 2: JN to provide list of BHP owned properties and water licence/rights in the area.

ACTION 3: JN to confirm where compost is being sourced from.

ACTION 4: JN to change the scale on the dust graph to make the levels clearer.

ACTION 5: JN to include a map of the groundwater monitoring sites when groundwater monitoring results are reported to the CCC.

ACTION: JN to provide an update on the blast exceedance investigation at the next meeting.

ACTIONS REMAINING OPEN FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

| Action | Status |
|--|--|
| Action 4 (Feb 2020): WP to provide the template for the CCC annual report to CCC members and to liaise with DT and LS about content. | Update: Template provided to the committee and 2019-20 Annual Report circulated to members and submitted to the NSW Department of Planning. |
| 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. Update: Chair to discuss with NSW Department of Planning. |
| Action 5 (Nov 2019): MAC to arrange a site visit to MacLean’s Hill for the CCC to gain a better understanding of the lighting issue. [Noted: JB continued to ask for a definition of ‘offensive lighting’] Site visit to also include a visit to rehabilitation areas as requested Feb 2020. Note – Mine tour to be undertaken at May meeting. | Site tour to be rescheduled in-line with COVID-19 requirements for site visits to Mt Arthur Coal. Update: Complete. Site tour undertaken during Nov 2020 meeting. |
| 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. Update: Chair to discuss with the NSW Department of Planning. |





