

**Mt Arthur Coal**  
**Community Consultative Committee Meeting**  
**9 February 2022 - Online**  
**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

Katie Weaver (KW) Corporate Affairs Specialist – Community Communications

Hannah Farr (HF) Health, Safety, Environment Manager

### Community Representatives

Sharon Pope (SP) Muswellbrook Council- Executive manager environment and planning.  
Jennifer Lecky (JL) Community Representative - Deputy Mayor Muswellbrook Council

Lavinia Hutchison (LH) Community Representative  
John Hobden (JH) Community Representative  
Diane Gee (DG) Community Representative

Kerri Garvie (KG) Minute taker

- 1. Welcome and Apologies:** The meeting was held online at 9am via video conference with the chair (WP) welcoming new members and asked all the attendees to introduce themselves. WP confirmed the 3 current/official BHP Representatives (Adam Lancey; Katie Weaver; Hannah Farr) and will record them with the department.  
Acknowledgment of country- Wonnarua/ Wanaruah people.  
**Apologies:** None
- 2. Safety:** AL discussed & showed a slide on a recent incident where a truck carrying a cradle of gas bottles had been driving to the pit when the cradle fell off. No other vehicles were involved, and no injury or damage was done. Prestart/vehicle checks are to be improved to ensure loads are secured correctly.
- 3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests: Ongoing Declaration –**  
WP is paid for chairing this meeting as is KG for taking the minutes. LH declared she does do some paid work as a contractor with another mining company in Muswellbrook. WP confirmed this wouldn't be a pecuniary interest to BHP.
- 4. Approval of the previous Meeting's Minutes:** WP stated previous minutes had been circulated on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021; JL accepted them with SP seconding it as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 5. Matters Arising:** AL followed up with Telstra regarding the poor mobile phone reception and is awaiting a response in writing. Telstra have 3 mobile phone towers in Muswellbrook, there has been no deterioration or change in reception for the past 3yrs and Telstra are aware of BHP's dumps, development and approval heights.

SP was satisfied with this report and suggests it needs to be addressed when the next environment assessment for the extension of the mine is prepared.

AL confirmed BHP's still working through the process for MT Arthur renewal options beyond 2026.

HF explained technical information regarding Blast Overpressure and 115 decibel limits.

Actions 1&2 2019-WP requested these need to stay on the Agenda as Covid has had an impact on the department representatives attending meetings.

6. **Report from the Chair:** WP welcomed new members, WP & AL agreed to recruit additional community members in the future, although this process does take time and AL suggested our current new members should have time to become familiar with the CCC. KW & WP will discuss future recruitment between meetings.
7. **Applications, approvals, and projects:** AL discussed upgrades to the intersection of Thomas Mitchell Drive and Denman Road, completion is due December 2022. A171 rehabilitation work has been completed and the relinquishment application will be lodged February 2022. Balmoral Homestead is currently undertaking maintenance and repair works to return the heritage building to the community to utilize in the future. JL asked if Balmoral Homestead will have the same leaser while work is getting done. AL confirmed no but when the appropriate time comes they will look into what the future use will be.
8. **Operations update:** AL went through the operations update briefly, wet weather in Nov/Dec and Omicron/Covid have been the biggest challenges. BHP implemented that as of 31<sup>st</sup> January all workers, visitors, contractors must be double vaccinated to go on site. RAT testing has been successful, and they continue to do this daily. Sales for ½ yr were on track due to utilizing stock already on site. Positive on free cash flow.  
  
WP asked about the BHP court case regarding the double vaccination policy. AL explained CFMEU disputed BHP stance on double vaccination, Fair Work agreed with BHP that in managing the health and safety risk obligation that it has as an employer, BHP were right to implement that policy. BHP did need to make sure that they followed the requirements under WHS legislation around consultation. After further consultation Fair Work were satisfied that the consultation requirements had been met to implement their vaccination policy. BHP are currently in consultation with the workforce for the Covid booster shots. 1-2% lost jobs due to the policy. WP asked if this was across all BHP sites? AL indicated it applied to all sites including corporate offices and all contractors, visitors, employers. LH commended Mt Arthur given cases were high in the community and mines were bringing in more workers. The policy also applies to members of the CCC if they go onsite.
9. **Land management:** HF presented slides on continuing rehabilitation in the Drayton Void area with additional areas in VD2 and VD5 in FY22. BHP is still scoping a program of works to enhance the rehabilitation completed on VD1 for commencement in FY22.
10. **Environment:** HF briefly explained the pre read- Equipment performances had 4 instances of downtime across all monitors but overall doing well. No exceedances for Deposited Dust. Quarterly groundwater monitoring had delays due to wet weather and Covid, data has not been returned however any exceedances will be provided in the next meeting. No surface water detected. There was one blast in excess of the 115dB over pressure limit, although the 5% criteria has not been exceeded. One exceedance of 1dB operational noise criteria has been reported to the DPIE and HVEC is waiting for a response. MAC has complied with all annual reporting requirements under licence conditions and is available to view on the BHP website.
11. **Community:** KW presented slides from the community complaints. 9 complaints in the second quarter of the FY, mostly from Roxburgh Road but all complaints were closed out quickly. LH asked if the community complaint numbers dropped since The Chronicle newspaper has ceased. KW confirmed they advertise the community response line in the Hunter River Times and community newsletter, the average complaints are up which shows the community are finding the complaints number. KW discussed an issue in January with the community response line-technical fault due to an upgrade by Vodaphone, BHP received 3 complaints during this time but did not getting any notifications, this has been solved and future proofing put in place by Optus. Engagement with the community- newsletter will be sent out more widely, \$5000 was donated to rural fire service, \$6.2m

was spent in 6 months with local, small business. Big thanks payments/vouchers for staff and contractors who got vaccinated. Sponsoring Upper Hunter Show \$5500.

LH has heard in the last 12 months increasing amounts of organisations deciding not to accept funding from fossil fuels. What can be done to keep the community engaged in the mines? AL said he hadn't noticed it as yet in the community and BHP is supportive of emissions reductions targets and the transition of the industry but indicated that this will take time.

**12. Calendar of Events:** Upper Hunter Show 18-20 March 2022

**13. General Business: Council Report-** SP explained they have been receiving a lot of applications of late in the industrial area and council will ask 1 of the companies that are proposing a development to do a safety audit for the intersection. Council will continue to consult with MAC about Thomas Mitchell drive. SP asked for an update if the environmental assessment is continuing to progress. AL answered yes its continuing to progress and will provide a formal update in the next couple months.

**14. Next Meeting:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022

All members supported the idea that the next meeting should be face to face at the Upper Hunter Community Centre in Muswellbrook.

**15. Meeting Close:** WP closed the meeting at 10.54am

#### **ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING:**

**ACTION 1- Chair and BHP to discuss advertising for more community members in the future.**

#### **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