



**MT ARTHUR MINE COMPLEX**  
**Community Consultative Committee Meeting – 22 March 2018**

**Attendance****Chairperson**

Dr. Colin Gellatly Independent Chair MAC CCC

**Company Representatives**

Chris White Acting Media Specialist, Coal Corporate Affairs  
 Community Team

Damien Perkins Manager Production Planning

Michael Duncan Lead Site Operations - Technology

Jimmy Nixon Environment Specialist

Chloe Christensen Environment Specialist

**Company Specialist Presentations**

Peter Hyland Mine Geologist

Fernando Lopez Engineer - Projects

**Council**

Cr. Mark Bowditch Muswellbrook Shire Council

**Community Representatives**

John Bancroft Community Representative

**Apologies**

Di Gee Community Representative

**Minutes**

Sarah Purser

1. **Welcome by Chairperson & Apologies;** Col welcomed members and advised that Di was an apology due to a standing work commitment of a Thursday morning.
2. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interests; Ongoing Declaration;** Col and Sarah are engaged by BHP Billiton to provide the respective roles of independent Chairperson and preparation of the meeting minutes.
3. **Approval of the previous Meeting's Minutes;** Col called for acceptance of the 20 December 2017 Meeting Minutes, Mark and John confirmed their approval.
4. **Matters Arising from the previous Meeting – Action Items**

Col advised that there had been the need to liaise with the Department about Alex McDonald not having been in attendance for three consecutive Meetings and that his community position had now been confirmed as being vacant, so when applications are received that position will also need to be filled. Col understood that there can be up to seven community representatives and requested that the advertising by MAC be completed prior to the next Meeting.

**Actioned Post Meeting**

- ✓ Chris has liaised with Fairfax media to publish an ad for the vacant CCC Community member positions during the week commencing Monday 30 April. Expressions of Interest are to be submitted to the Chair for assessment and endorsement to enable new committee member(s) to be in attendance at the June Meeting.

**Action from December Meeting: Damien and Chris to seek availability for a MAC NSW Specialist Geologist to present on the depressurisation of coal seams at a future CCC Meeting.**

- ✓ Peter Hyland - Special Geologist - to present at today's Meeting.

## **Actions Brought Forward**

**Action 1:** Chris to keep the CCC informed on any feedback from the EPA regarding MAC's response to their letter of 17 November 2017 in relation to dust, including if the case gets closed.

**Action 2:** In response to a request from Mark - Jimmy to investigate if MAC are able to provide a more visual type representation to indicate where dust monitoring is located both in and around the Pit, prevailing wind direction, and if there had been elevated results during the reporting period.

**Action 3:** Jimmy to provide detail on year to year performance for MAC's success rate with tree planting.

**Action 4:** Chris to provide detail on MAC's Engagement Plan that is in place to respond to incident or emergency, and the MAC Team that are involved, at the June Meeting.

## **5. Matters Arising**

### ***Stated by John Bancroft***

*"The purpose of this committee is to maintain a good working relationship and to promote information sharing as stated in the CCC guidelines. To receive an agenda only 14 hours prior to a meeting is outside the CCC guidelines, which state that 1 week is the required minimum.*

*I can only once again complain about MAC's complete disregard of this committee's rights and MAC's obligations. The distribution of minutes to committee members in excess of 1 month, when the CCC guidelines state 1 week and then distribution to the community in excess of 1.5 months, is unacceptable.*

*It comes as no surprise to me, or the community, that the only time we get monitoring data is when MAC has a problem and needs to report to the DPE. I requested dust monitoring data over 9 months ago and, even though I was given assurances this would be supplied, this has still not been forthcoming. In addition, 6 months ago MAC was given a written list of data requirements and, yet again, still nothing has been provided. My question is "how long is the community required to put up with this type of unacceptable behaviour?"*

*With this in mind, I ask the chairman to inform the DPE that MAC has effectively castrated the committee to the point of being unworkable and that Councillor Bowditch inform Council of the same. Since I have not had time to consider the agenda I am unable to effectively contribute to this meeting, so will not be staying today".*

Col advised that he generally understood the frustration around the lack of data being provided and his observation had been that the company had gone through a fair change of staff, with new people at nearly every meeting, particularly in relation to Environmental personnel. Col asked the company to attend to John's request as soon as practicable out of session and that this matter not be held over to the next CCC Meeting. Col added that other companies do commit to providing monitoring data for the reporting period, including exceedances, in a graph type format.

**Action 5:** Jimmy to liaise with John out of session to clarify the monitoring data he had been seeking and provide that data prior to the June Meeting.

Chris noted that the EPA had presented on the Upper Hunter Air Particles Action Plan at the September 2017 MAC CCC Meeting and members had been provided with the link to the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network webpage in the December 2017 Meetings Minutes; <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/aqms/uhunteraqmap.htm>

Chris and Mark both felt the dynamic alerts available on that site might assist John to gain access to the more detailed monitoring data he may be seeking and Mark noted that it seemed the biggest concern externally was around PM<sub>2.5</sub>, whereas PM<sub>10</sub> data is what MAC provide to the CCC.

Col confirmed that he would talk to the Department about John's concerns, he felt that there was room for improvement by MAC in terms of responding to requests for information and adherence to time lines. Mark acknowledged that MAC did advise members on the 19th of March that there had been an issue beyond the companies control that had impaired their ability to disseminate the Agenda and pre-read Report. Mark felt therefore that the delay in distribution was not entirely for MAC's Team to take blame for but did feel that the company should have some form of a back up in place to avoid these types of difficulties occurring in the future.

**Action 6: A CCC Timeline Proposal for discussion and endorsement to be presented at the June Meeting.**

Jimmy advised that some staff departures had been planned however some also unplanned and that it does take new people a bit of time to get to know site, however he felt that the Environment team were now in a position to be in a good place for the next Meeting. Mark asked for that to be communicated to John, Chris and Jimmy advised they would make contact with John to provide an update on matters shared at this Meeting and also an introduction to the new Environment Team.

## 6. Update from BHP Billiton

### OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS; Presented by Damien Perkins

|                        | Last<br>3 Months | Previous<br>3 Months | Previous Year<br>3 Months |                      |                      |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Production Information | Dec-Feb<br>FY18  | Sep-Nov<br>FY17/18   | Dec-Feb<br>FY17           | Q-on-Q<br>Difference | Y-on-Y<br>Difference |
| OB Movement (Mbcm)     | 25.4             | 28.9                 | 25.9                      | -12%                 | -7%                  |
| Coal Mined (Mt)        | 4.3              | 5.6                  | 4.9                       | -26%                 | -7%                  |
| Coal Uncovered (Mt)    | 4.7              | 5.4                  | 4.6                       | -15%                 | -2%                  |
| Product Coal (Mt)      | 3.5              | 4.4                  | 4.5                       | -26%                 | -29%                 |

- The Quarter; December to February FY18 was slightly down from the Quarter; September to November FY17/18 due to operational matters.
- The reporting period for this Meeting included February, which was noted to be a shorter month i.e. a 28 day period.
- MAC's intent is to continue the performance achieved in the Quarter; September to November 17/18 and the appropriate staffing levels would be required to achieve that.

Mark asked if members could be provided with hard copies of the slides in the Company presentation.

**Action 7: At future MAC CCC Meetings, attendees to be provided with a printed copy of the Company presentation so they may make their own notes relating to the slides and to assist them to take the information shared out to the wider community.**

## 7. DEPRESSURISATION OF COAL SEAMS; Presented by Peter Hyland

Peter provided an overview on MAC's Geological complexity; please refer to pages 6 to 9 of the Company Presentation.

**Action from December Meeting; In response to interest from John and Mark around Groundwater and Electrical Conductivity, Chris to arrange for MAC to present on this subject in more detail.**

✓ At today's Meeting

MAC provided an overview on their Ground Water Monitoring and clarified today's presentation was specifically around deep water. The below link was provided for members to view mapping identifying monitoring locations. For Map referencing; **Red** indicates **Surface Water** Monitoring Sites and **Blue** are the **Groundwater** Monitoring sites that the company presented on at this Meeting.

**The Annual Environmental Management Review FY17 can be found at**

<https://www.bhp.com/environment/regulatory-information#>

Specific link to the report:

<https://www.bhp.com/-/media/bhp/regulatory-information-media/coal/nswec/mt-arthur-coal/annual-environmental-management-reviews/mt-arthur-coal-aemr-fy17.pdf>

**Map is Page 46**

Members were also provided with a hard copy extract from the Annual Environmental Management Review FY17:-

**GROUND WATER : Report is Page 48**

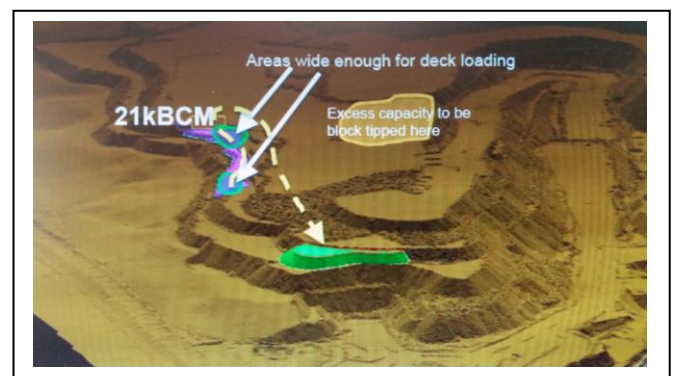
- Environmental Management
- Environmental Performance
  - ❖ Drawdown and cut off wall performance
  - ❖ Groundwater Quality
- Summary of ground water monitoring results by aquifer : **Table 23 is Page 49**

Mark advised the biggest concern for himself and he felt also for John, was about depressurisation and noted that a number of farmers had been losing well water which had resulting in talk around blaming mining for this. Mark acknowledged that of course drought would have had a large impact on water. Col queried the logic behind depressurisation and water levels dropping due to mining and Mark responded the momentum was that people are saying depressurisation due to mining has resulted in dropping and changes in the water tables. Jimmy responded that MAC do not mine in the alluvial itself and that today's presentation was looking at deep water.

## **OPERATIONS; Presentation by Damien Perkins**

### **MAC VD5 Remediation**

A section of the Visual dump adjacent to Denman Road has been over dumped. This area will be remediated and an excavator and trucks will be utilised to relocate material from the overdumped area to ensure that MAC comply to the Geofluv surface design. Damien advised that he had wanted to inform the CCC about these works, as some activity will be seen from Denman Road due to height.



*Reference; Slide 10 MAC CCC Meeting 22 March 2018*

Mark felt the Geofluv view is better than tight topping and the best way to go from the outside. Mark asked if MAC were moving away from vertical drop structures, as he had seen one on another mine site fail. Jimmy responded that MAC are moving away from using them as micro-relief, however they may need to incorporate some old with new. Mark said he would like to see water kept at height and any downward movement be slowed down.

### ***Mining Activity***

- ✚ ***Looking South-West***; just to the Denman side of MacLean, there is an area about to be pushed, this will impact on what has been remediated but there is nice rehab underlying it.
- ✚ ***Edenglassyn Homestead***; remedial piles will allow MAC to get a bit further around the corner and soil will be seen on that area in a few months.
- ✚ ***Skellatar Stock Route Road***; there is a remediating piece moving upward and machinery that MAC will put in place to get to point of push down and trees in will be seen.

### ***ENVIRONMENT; Presentation by Jimmy***

#### ***Environmental Improvements***

- ✚ MAC are addressing weeds across site, including a focus on box thorn removal and control, as well as prickly pear.
- ✚ The Denman Road Visual Bund Improvement Project; is to partially revegetate and provide protection and screening along that road. MAC will also set up some more watering systems to assist with the success rate and were in the process of scoping those works.
- ✚ Another few weeks will see the company move into their Annual Pest Management Program in line with Local Land Authorities and whereby MAC will line up with Government programs.

#### ***Rehabilitation Update***

- ✚ ***Planting of rehab areas in the coming months***; MAC were waiting on final bulk shaping of planned areas and topsoiling of rehab areas to be done, once completed the next steps will be slashing and seeding.
- ✚ ***The two main rehab areas for this year***; are the top of CD1 and also CD5 as presented on at this Meeting.

Mark advised that he had just asked in general about percentages of planting strike rates as he had noted there were a lot of vacant spots. Jimmy responded that the company often over plans planting as they know they will lose trees as a result of feral animal impacts and due to some years being more challenging if the conditions are dry. Jimmy noted that MAC have a rehab commitment and they may have to go back into some areas and do some replanting.

Mark felt that the information that MAC shares at the CCC Meetings needed to be re-communicated to others and that John is a conduit for that. Jimmy acknowledged that communication had been impacted by staff turnovers and hoped that would improve going forward now there was an Environmental team on board again and advised he would work to ensure MAC closes out each commitment.

#### ***Elevated Environmental Monitoring Results***

- ✚ 21 days within the reporting period the company experienced elevated PM<sub>10</sub> real-time particulate monitoring results over 24 hour averaging periods. Elevated monitoring results were investigated with 31 samples identified as containing contributions from MAC.
- ✚ 13 days within the reporting period experienced elevated PM<sub>10</sub> high volume air sampler monitoring results over 24 hour averaging periods. Elevated monitoring results were investigated with 14 samples identified as containing contributions from MAC.

Jimmy noted that the experiencing of some exceedances was an indication of a challenging weather period with no rain, he advised that MAC had been in discussion with the Regulators and the consensus was that there had been difficult conditions right across the Valley and at all mine sites.

Jimmy explained that MAC work to trigger levels i.e. don't wait for exceedances, and use 15 minute average readings for PM<sub>10</sub>. That data goes back to the OCE's who use those levels to alter operations and put controls in place and it is the OCE's that are in the position to make the best calls at the time. OCE's will inspect areas, look at monitoring and assess each case individually, which can result in operations being slowed down, doing soft tipping and may also determine that water carts are the most appropriate means to assist with any foreseen dust management.

Col thanked the company representatives for their presentations and gave the example of other companies providing detail on Operational Downtime; outlining where equipment had been stopped/parked up during the reporting period. Col felt this detail offered a good example of how and when the company intervened in terms of noise, dust etc and that then gives the community some confidence that the mines are reacting to these issues and looking out for community concerns.

Mark added that when diggers are close to the road and on high wind areas, that is when outsiders would like to see the mine moving their operations. Mark understood that the mine needs keep working, but felt activity could be moved into a location away from a high risk area should wind conditions become an issue. Jimmy confirmed that one control is shutting down or moving equipment, and that is something the OCE's can implement. Initially MAC may change the way equipment is working and if there was not the desired improvement, then equipment may be moved or shut down.

Damien picked up the point that it would be helpful for MAC to identify when operations were stopped due to noise and dust and that the company demonstrate they had been pro-active in their efforts to mitigate these. MAC queried if the group could suggest any channels for communicating with the community apart from media and Col suggested a method might be for MAC to put together and share some practical examples of when they had responded to potential dust concerns. Mark agreed that the biggest need was to share real time actions that MAC have undertaken and where they had not waited for monitoring to trigger a response. Jimmy felt that there needed to be more consistency from site and to get more members to this forum to ensure information gets disseminated.

Damien added that MAC have put in an Eagles Nest which provides a good view overlooking the Pit. This will assist Supervisors and OCE's when making decisions, as they can now get in a good position to see any potential dust, particularly during wind events. Mark felt also that MAC has a difficult challenge being right up on Denman Road, with many other mines located further away from roadways. Mark would like to see operating equipment moved should there be adverse weather conditions in play that may impact on roads or neighbours and felt this would go a long way in alleviating community concerns.

#### ***Elevated Environmental Monitoring Results - Water***

- ✚ Four events where groundwater levels fell below trigger levels. Trigger events were investigated with no significant findings identified.
- ✚ Five surface water events were recorded. Four of these returned elevated electrical conductivity results and one returned an elevated pH level. There were no significant findings or impacts found.
- ✚ All events reported to DPE.

MAC advised that it had been a challenging period with an extremely dry summer and lower than average rainfall for the region, as well as several bushfires alight throughout December and January. These factors should be taken into consideration when looking at the volume of exceedances for this period.

#### ***COMPLAINTS; Presentation by Chris***

**Type;** Blasting = 2, Dust = 5, Lighting = 4, Noise = 5

**Location;** Bengalla Road = 1, Roxburgh Rd =6, Denman Rd = 4 Muswellbrook = 3, Old Bengalla Rd = 1 Racecourse Rd = 1

Chris was concerned that lighting complaints had predominantly come from one complainant, he acknowledged to enhance systems and processes on the lighting side of things, there needed to be more done within MAC's teams, particularly around early evening. Chris noted that the dry period had primarily been where dust concerns had originated.



Mark noted that complaints presented to the CCC continue to come back to lighting on dumps and asked if one particular shift had been identified as causing concern. Chris responded that this had been more around one area that was setting up early evening, that was then monitored externally by a driver.

Col asked if the lighting concerns had been fixed as a response and Chris confirmed yes, and that MAC had been proactive with their monitoring of lighting prior to it getting dark in an effort to adjust anything before it may have become an issue.

Mark asked if detail of lighting concerns were going back to shifts and Chris confirmed yes, that MAC does communicate with the OCE's and checks are undertaken to ensure commitments are adhered to, MAC acknowledged that whilst they continue to refresh systems, there was more work to be done around lighting. Col asked that MAC continue to update members on lighting concerns, improvements and actions undertaken.

### **Community Support**

- ✚ Sponsorship of Muswellbrook Race Club Gold Cup Day –“Mt Arthur Coal Wayne Harris Handicap”
- ✚ Mt Arthur Coal Family Day –fun fairground-style event including Community partners with coach tours of the pit and the coal handling and prep plant.
- ✚ Funding support for local groups and small community organisations under Benefiting My Community Program.
- ✓ Hunter Life Education’s inaugural Billy Cart Derby in June; Hunter Coal Festival next month; Scone Scouts Hall Disability ramp; Singleton Heights pre-school woodwork shed; Muswellbrook Multicultural Ladies Group
- ✓ Assessing applications in latest funding round: Cancer Council Sunscreen Boards for schools; Rydon Aboriginal Training; Coolroom in the Scone Neighbourhood Resource Centre; Upper Hunter Wine & Food Affair
- ✚ Local Buying Foundation sponsorship of Singleton Business Chamber’s Outstanding Business Awards (Fri 4 May) and Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce & Industry Business Awards (Fri 20 April), with opportunity for Scone Chamber of Commerce to take up similar level funding for recognition event.
- ✚ Ongoing support of Muswellbrook Chamber of Commerce Monthly breakfast events & Singleton Business Chamber events

### **8. Communications Network Upgrade; Presentation by Fernando Lopez**

**Project: 4G/LTE communications network; Detail can be found in Company Presentation Slides; Pages 14 to 16**

Fernando advised members that MAC had wanted to share detail around this Network Upgrade as work will be visual outside of the mine during construction. There will be two new Towers; one on Denman Road and one around MAC's Workshop area, there will also be upgrades to the existing Mount Arthur Tower.

Col asked when building works would commence and Fernando advised construction would commence around mid 2018; June / July. Fernando explained that MAC had wanted to do this type of engagement with neighbours and take this out to community to get their input and to see if there was anything the community felt that MAC could do better.

Chris added that MAC also had engagement with near neighbours that could be affected by the upgrade.

Mark queried if there may be an option to paint the towers green and in response to this query Fernando subsequently obtained a photo montage of the Denman Road towers painted green, see below sample of the new photos contrasted with the old ones.

Photo montage locations; Denman Road Tower



Denman Road Tower- Location 15 - Grey



Denman Road Tower - Location 15 - Green



Denman Road Tower - Location 19 - Grey



Denman Road Tower - Location 19 - Green



As per the above images and advice from experts in the area, the inclination for MAC's particular situation is to maintain the colour of the towers light grey and therefore the project will paint the towers in this colour.

The reasoning for this is as follows. In short, for observers, the green colour offers a stronger contrast with the white/light blue colour of the sky background, compared to the contrast between a grey light galvanised colour and the same white/light colour of the sky and MACs pit.



A green colour would be a good idea if the background was mostly green, which is not the case from most observers' viewpoints in the surrounding area. Additionally, MAC were advised that painting a standard structure with an unusual colour would normally make it stand out more, than if it was painted in the typical colour they are.

For instance; the large majority of these type of towers and structures for major power lines are painted light grey, changing this pattern would tend to be more evident.

## **8. GENERAL BUSINESS; *Community & Company Feedback***

### ***Mark Bowditch***

#### ***Dust concern:-***

Mark spoke about a dust issue that had caused concern to Council, the EPA and community and said that during that event the PM<sub>10</sub> levels had been like sand blasting and could be heard when they hit the side of a car, along with being seen on the windscreen. As a result of concerns raised, Mark went out to view that situation and attributed the cause to a digger loading trucks close to the road, approximately 100 metres inside of the Pit, and as a result dirt had been carried out by very strong wind.

Mark understands that the company does work to operate responsibly but when people see a dust issue of this nature, they react strongly to it and unfortunately an incident like that can undo all the good work that the mine does. Mark asked when MAC uses monitoring was there a point where there is real time dust management, for example; that operations are moved away from the road. Jimmy confirmed yes, MAC's OCE's are expected to drive around and view conditions and have the ability to shut down equipment ad hoc and do not have to wait until there is a trigger in monitoring.

Mark advised that Council had asked for video to show water carts spraying at the digger and the picture provided did not enable them to see if it was working. Mark was concerned that if MAC take water carts away to use for dust suppression on active machinery that this may take them from what they should be doing which is to water roads and he felt that the EPA had similar concerns.

#### ***Bringing Visitors to the area:-***

Mark advised that he had been in discussion with Chris regarding a committee that had formed around opening the Wollemi National Park to the public. One of the focus topics had been on how to bring people to the Valley and get past the mindset that it is predominantly a coal mining area.

Mark would like to see Mines come on board to show people from out of town what mines do, particularly in relation to rehabilitation. Both Col and Mark agreed that outside of the Valley, there is a real lack of understanding on how much mining rehabilitation is being achieved and felt it would be beneficial if rehab could be viewed so people could see that it is real and happening. Mark felt there was also a mindset that coal was being taking out of the ground but some uncertainty around what was being put back and that it would be good if there was communication around what the mines are actively doing i.e. not just leaving a hole.

By attracting people to the Hunter, Mark felt they then could be directed to other things the region has on offer, such as bush walking and provided the example of a Bush Ranger, Hillary, that had come from Sydney and taken some residents out Baia way. Mark felt that initiatives like these may help to increase the potential of the Valley as a tourist destination which he hoped then would spin on to help local communities Mark spoke about how successfully this had been achieved at Broken Hill.

### **Chris White**

Chris opened a discussion around understanding how information share from the CCC forum was taken out to the wider community and asked where does the information go. Chris noted that MAC can do other types of community engagement and stakeholder information sharing but he felt that the CCC was a key part of communication.

Mark advised that he does a report back to Council and talks to others in the community, his groups included Emergency Services, Sporting Clubs, and he also has conversations with members of other CCC groups. Mark would like MAC to show community that they are doing what they are saying by providing examples and acknowledged that people only see what they can view from the road, so sharing detail around what happens in the Pit and also rehabilitation would be beneficial.

Mark believed that John was in a similar situation as himself and they both do get a lot of phone calls, including a number of complaints. Mark takes a lot of information from different groups back and noted there are many discussions around all mines and what they do such as; washing solar panels, tank cleaning and the like. Mark advised that he continues to share detail around the efforts the company puts in and what MAC does successfully achieve.

**Action 8: Col asked that the discussion around who community representatives liaise with outside of this forum be raised again at the June Meeting and that an opportunity also be provided for these reps to detail the type of feedback and questions they are receiving from the wider community.**

It was agreed that communication had been a key focus at this meeting and the MAC team acknowledged the feedback provided in this forum, the concept of a relationship with newsprint, such as the Chronicle, where the company may have a section to communicate some areas around MAC's focus on community was also put forward.

### **NEXT MEETING : WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE 2018**

MAC CCC at Drayton Mine : 9.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

Mt Arthur Coal & Drayton Mine Joint CCC at Drayton Mine : 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

### **Actions Arising from this Meeting (Over Page)**

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