



# MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

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## MINUTES

### Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Muswellbrook Coal Company's Administration Offices

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr. Malcolm Ogg	Community Representative
Mr. John Madden	Community Representative
Ms. Jennifer Lecky	Community Representative
Ms. De-anne Douglas	Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council
Ms. Theresa Folpp	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Mr. Brett O'Kane ( <i>Head of Site</i> )	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Ms. Julie Thomas ( <i>Environmental Superintendent</i> )	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Mrs. Erin Muffett ( <i>Minute Taker</i> )	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Mr. Peter York	Thiess Muswellbrook Coal Rehabilitation

#### 1. **Open Meeting**

The meeting was opened at 12:06pm by Ms Julie Thomas.

#### 2. **Apologies**

Mr. Garry Chapman Community Representative

*Question by Mr Malcolm Ogg:* Do we have an elected councillor?

*Ms Julie Thomas:* Yes, Councillor Rod Scholes. Muswellbrook Coal has not received correspondence from Muswellbrook Shire Council to advise that Mr Scholes is no longer a committee member.

*Question by Mr Malcolm Ogg:* Can we seek clarification from council in relation to this?

*Ms Julie Thomas:* Yes, we will follow up on this.

#### 3. **Correspondence**

Out – December meeting minutes sent out to CCC members on 6 December 2023.

March presentation emailed to CCC members on 14 March 2024.

In - Nil

#### 4. **Declaration of pecuniary or other interests**

Nil.

#### 5. **Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes from the previous ordinary meeting held on 5th December 2023 were confirmed as true and reliable. Moved – Mr. Malcolm Ogg, Second by Ms. Jennifer Lecky.

#### 6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Nil

## **7. Notification of Items of General Business Proposed to be Raised:**

Nil

## **8. Reports**

*Environmental Monitoring Data & Operations* – Julie Thomas presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee. The presentation contained an update on approvals, mine operations, project, rehabilitation, complaints and the results of the environmental monitoring data (weather, dust, gas, water, blasting and noise), at the mine site.

### Mining Update

- Rehabilitation in Open Cut 2 is complete.
- Spontaneous combustion management continues in Open Cut 1.
- Rehabilitation in Open Cut 1 has continued. Thiess Rehabilitation are completing this work.
- Mine closure studies have been ongoing.
- In April 2022, MCC submitted an application to MSC to make minor amendments to the development consent to assist in the transition from mining into a closure execution phase and ultimately lease relinquishment. This modification was approved at the February Council Meeting.
- MCC has a requirement to update the Environmental Management Plan as a result of the consent modification. These will be updated and submitted to council over the next 6 months. The Environmental Management Strategy requires review and input from the CCC. The changes will include changes of roles and responsibilities with Thiess starting and changes to government agency names.

### Project Update

- Pumped Hydro Update – Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Company (MPH) has been issues SEARS under the NSW SSD planning process and will now begin compiling environmental impact studies and community engagement. MPH has had a local council DA approved for geotechnical investigation work. DA was approved in February. Site geotechnical drilling work is anticipated to begin in April.
- Solar Farm Update – EIS Response to Submissions report was provided to the Department as a part of the planning process. This has now been uploaded to the NSW major project plan portal in March. Due to the number of submissions received, the application will now be decided by the Independent Planning Commission (IPC). Once the proposed development is assessed by the DPPI and provided to the Commission for decision, the Chair of the Commission will appoint a panel, typically comprised of between one to three Commissioners.

### Weather

- Rainfall: Above average rainfall for January to May period.

### Dust

- $PM_{10}$ : All within range, no exceedance to discuss. Levels are quite low.

### Gas Monitoring

- Gas monitor results from Muscle Creek and Nisbet, were presented to the CCC. Changes in SO<sub>2</sub> criteria due to the consent modification in February 2024. Results were all below the criteria level. Some issues with the Nisbet resulted in the data being invalid. This has now been rectified. Full results are available on the company website.

### Water

- Ground Water Sampling shows still within acceptable levels. Not significant change.
- Surface Water Monitoring – no results for May. There has seen a decrease in pH at one site which is currently under investigation.

### Complaints

- The complaint history until June 2023 to May 2024 was presented to the CCC. MCC has received a total of 8 complaints in 2024 to date. Five relate to noise, one relates to blasting and two relate to lighting impacts.

### Noise

- Now Thiess are operational we are required to conduct noise monitoring again. All results are within compliance levels.

*Question by Ms Therese Folpp: Are Thiess working night shift?*

*Ms Julie Thomas: Thiess work afternoon shift which finishes at 3:00am. Day shift then commences at 7:00am.*

### CHPP Demolition

- Ms Julie Thomas presented a video of the MCC CHPP demolition to the CCC. The demolition was completed by Major Projects Group.

## **9. Submissions**

Nil

## **10. Announcements**

Nil

## **11. Next Meeting**

The next meeting which is to be scheduled for December 2024 will include a site inspection to view the progress of the rehabilitation works being completed by Thiess.

Meeting will be held at 12:00pm in the Board Room at Muswellbrook Coal Company Administrative Office. Refreshments shall be provided.

## **12. General Business**

*Question by Mr Malcolm Ogg: Has there been any further progress concerning the Bypass?*

*Ms Julie Thomas: MCC's modified consent has a condition regarding changes to the development consent boundary when the land acquisition has been finalised. We have been in discussions with the Resource Regulator about a path moving forward for relinquishment of the mining lease.*

*Question by Mr Malcolm Ogg: What about the Hunter Gas Pipeline?*

*Mr Brett O’Kane: No, we haven’t heard for a while. Surveyors have been coming to site on occasion.*

*Question by Mr John Madden: How have negotiations gone with Transport NSW?*

*Mr Brett O’Kane: We have received an offer. We are still coming to an agreement. We have engaged Sparke Helmore to negotiate on our behalf.*

**13. Adjourn Meeting**

Meeting closed at 12:55pm.

**14. Site Inspection**

A site inspection was not conducted on this occasion due to recent rainfall.