



MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

SITE OFFICE

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MINUTES

Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee 11th November 2025 Muswellbrook Coal Company's Administration Offices

Present:

Name

Cr. Rod Scholes (*Chairman*)

Mr. John Madden

Mr Garry Chapman

Mr. Brett O'Kane (*Head of Site*)

Ms. Julie Thomas (*Environmental Superintendent*)

Mr Ray Balks (*Manager Stakeholder Relations*)

Mr. Mitchell Cronin (*Manager Renewable Projects*)

Representing

Muswellbrook Shire Council

Community Representative

Community Representative

Muswellbrook Coal Company

Muswellbrook Coal Company

Idemitsu Australia

Idemitsu Australia

1. **Open Meeting**

The meeting was opened at 12:10pm by Cr Rod Scholes.

2. **Apologies**

Ms. Theresa Folpp

Muswellbrook Shire Council

3. **Correspondence**

Out –

- June 2025 minutes sent out to the CCC members on 11 June 2025
- September 2025 update sent out to the CCC members on 4 September 2025

In –

- Muswellbrook Shire Council sent a letter to Muswellbrook Coal Company on 15 September 2025 to advise that the CCC could be dissolved on the condition one final meeting was held.

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

Nil.

5. **Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes from the previous ordinary meeting held on 3rd December 2024 were confirmed as true and reliable. Moved – Cr. Rod Scholes, Second by Mr. John Madden.

6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

Nil

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

Nil

8. Reports

Operational Update – Ms. Julie Thomas presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee. The presentation contained an update on operations, care and maintenance moving forward, and a project update.

Operational Update

- Rehabilitation in Open Cut 1 has been finalised. This included bulk shaping of the overburden, installation of water control structures, spreading of gypsum, mulch and fertiliser, and seeding the area with either native vegetation or pasture.
- Planning has commenced on the demolition of the Mine Infrastructure Area. This will involve removing all the buildings, minor reshaping, spreading of gypsum, mulch and fertiliser, and seeding the area. The access road and car park will remain in place. The infrastructure for electricity and water will stay in place but will be isolated. If an option to reuse this area is not identified, the carpark, and remaining infrastructure will be removed. Interested parties regard the existing buildings as a liability.

Care and Maintenance – Managing the Site Moving Forward

- The management of the site will transfer to the responsibility of Idemitsu Australia.
- Works that will be undertaken include:
 - Rehabilitation maintenance including weed and pest animal control.
 - Maintaining water levels in dams until the vegetation is established.
 - Site inspections.
 - Water and weather monitoring.
- Site visits and activities for future land use planning.

Projects Update – Muscle Creek Road Maintenance

- One of the requirements of our consent is that Muscle Creek Road is in a well maintained, safe and appropriate condition prior to Council taking responsibility for ongoing maintenance.
- The condition that is required to be met has been agreed to by Council.
- Work has commenced on repairing the road to meet this condition.
- Works will be finalised by mid-December.

Projects Update – Remediating the Old Pit Top

- Work is underway to remediate the Old Pit Top located near Muswellbrook High School.
- Remediation works involve the containment of asbestos contamination found on the site and the removal of historical infrastructure.
- Ongoing program of testing and validation of the soil material.
- Works are being completed in accordance with approvals from Council, EPA and DCCEEW.
- EPA Site Auditor oversees the process and will provide assurance that the work has been completed to the appropriate standards.
- Muswellbrook Coal are considering future options for the site, however, there are no definite plans.
- Zoned for residential and private recreational.

Post Mining Land Use Update – Mr. Mitchell Cronin presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee. The presentation contained an update on Muswellbrook Coal Company landholdings, the Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Project, Muswellbrook Solar Farm and Biodiversity Stewardship Areas.

Landholdings

- The Muswellbrook Coal site consists of approximately 2,400 Ha of land covering both former mining areas and buffer land.
- Beyond the mandatory rehabilitation activities, Idemitsu Australia has been involved in the development of alternative uses for some mine buffer areas.
- Idemitsu has focussed on renewable energy projects for post-mining land use. This aligns with Idemitsu's corporate objectives for GHG reduction and attracting jobs and economic activity to the region.
- Projects under development include:
 - Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro (MPH),
 - Muswellbrook Solar Farm,
 - Biodiversity stewardship areas (BSAs).

Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro

- Project Status
 - Joint development with AGL.
 - Under development.
 - 2027 FID (investment decision).
- Land Use
 - Requires use of significant portion of northern area.
 - MCC Void #2 proposed for use as lower reservoir.

Muswellbrook Solar Farm

- Project Status
 - Joint development with OX2
 - Under development
 - All consents are granted
 - Q1 2026 FID (investment decision)
- Land Use
 - Approximately 480Ha.
 - 2 x landholders. ~350Ha on Idemitsu land.
 - Solar farm consists of two separate areas, one in the northern end of site and one in the south.

Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements

- Project Status
 - Wholly-owned Idemitsu project
 - Under development
 - Q1 2026 execution
- Land Use
 - Utilisation of areas of high ecological value.
 - Mostly heavily forested areas and steep/undulating land that is considered unviable for development.

- Will be formalised under a 'Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement' with the NSW Conservation Trust
- Idemitsu will continue to manage the land under the strict BSA requirements for weeds, pests, fire management, etc.

9. Submissions

Nil

10. Announcements

Nil

11. Next Meeting

This was the last meeting of MCC's Community Consultative Committee.

12. General Business

There was general discussion about the ongoing involvement of CCC members in site visits and site updates. It was agreed that the CCC meetings will be finalised, and this was the last meeting. Ongoing involvement with the community will be managed by Idemitsu Australia.

Action: Mr. Ray Barks to issue a letter to CCC members formalising this process.

13. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting closed at 1:30pm.

14. Site Inspection

A site inspection of the Open Cut 1 and CHPP areas was conducted by the CCC members present at the meeting.