



MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

SITE OFFICE
Administration Centre
Muscle Creek Road
Muswellbrook NSW 2333

POSTAL ADDRESS
P.O. Box 123
Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Telephone: (02) 6542 2300
Facsimile: (02) 6542 5010

MINUTES
Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee
2nd December 2020
At Muswellbrook Coal Company's Administrative Office

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr. Hamish McTaggart (dial in)	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Mr. John Madden	Community Representative
Mr. Malcolm Ogg	Community Representative
Mr. Garry Chapman	Community Representative
Mr. Grant Clouten (<i>General Manager</i>) (dial in)	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Mrs. Brooke York (<i>Environmental Superintendent</i>)	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Miss. Georgia Holt (<i>Environmental Officer</i>)	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Mr. Phil Hetherington (<i>Maintenance Manager</i>) (dial in)	Muswellbrook Coal Company

1. Open Meeting

The meeting was opened at 12:08pm by Mrs Brooke York.

2. Apologies

Mrs. Jennifer Lecky	Community Representative
Mr. Rod Scholes (<i>Councillor</i>)	Muswellbrook Shire Council

3. Correspondence

Out – June meeting minutes sent out to CCC members on 18 June 2020
September presentation sent out to CCC members on 9 September 2020
In - Nil

4. Declaration of pecuniary or other interests

Nil.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 9 June 2020 were confirmed as true and reliable
Moved – Mr Malcolm Ogg and Mr Garry Chapman.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil

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

No business was proposed in the previous minutes but actions from the June meeting included:

- Providing an update on mine closure as requested by Malcolm Ogg (mine closure was then covered in December CCC presentation)
- Attendance of councillors at meeting was requested by Garry Chapman, this was communicated to Muswellbrook Shire Council by Hamish McTaggart. However, Rod Scholes was an apology for the December meeting.

Question: Malcolm Ogg asked about the projects proposed for Muswellbrook Coal's land post closure. These included the Pumped Hydro, Hunter Gas Pipeline and Muswellbrook Bypass. Malcolm wanted to know if Muswellbrook Coal had considered these projects in the closure plans and if the corridors required for their infrastructure would overcrowd the site. Malcolm asked for a report on these projects.

Answer: Grant Clouten mentioned updates on these projects would be given in the presentation.

8. Reports

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

B. *Report Discussion* –

Mining Update

- Mining activities continued in Open Cut 1 with some material being dumped in Open Cut 2. Due to the impacts of Covid 19, the decision was made earlier in the year to reduce the total amount of coal being mined at MCC and move these tonnes to 2021.
- Spontaneous combustion management continued.

Exploration Licence Update

- No exploration activities were completed during 2020. The exploration licence is due to expire in September 2021. An assessment will be made during 2021 to determine the most appropriate strategy for the licence (renewal / relinquishment)

Environmental Management Plan Update

- The MCC Environmental Management Plans are required to be updated every three (3) years.
- Environmental Management Strategy and Visual Amenity, Lighting and Landscape Management Plan were approved by MSC in October. The approved plans are available on the MCC website.
- Pollution Incident Response Management Plan was tested and updated in October.
- Noise Management Plan, Bushfire Management Plan and Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan were approved by MSC in November.
- Air Quality Management Plan was approved by MSC in December which will see the removal of a gas monitor at the Muswellbrook Rural Fire Station. This monitor was in operation as part of the Spontaneous Combustion Emissions investigation which was completed in May 2020, therefore the monitor is no longer required.

- There are no remaining Management Plans requiring updating or approval in 2020.

West Muswellbrook Project

- The drilling program at West Muswellbrook commenced in July 2020 and will continue through to June 2021. The additional drill holes are to assess the potential viability of an underground mining operation.
- MCC commenced the West Muswellbrook Exploration Project community consultation program, focusing on ensuring affected landholders and nearby neighbours were informed about the West Muswellbrook Exploration Project and provided an opportunity to raise any concerns. A community newsletter can be found on the West Muswellbrook website.

Question: Garry Chapman wanted to know if an inspection of the West Muswellbrook site could be arranged.

Answer: Phil Hetherington indicated that the West Muswellbrook site was large and access was limited due to the terrain. For a site visit to go ahead, there would need to be discussion about what the community members want to see. Phil also gave a presentation on West Muswellbrook following the CCC presentation for those interested in learning more. Malcolm Ogg and Garry Chapman asked for a site visit and it was agreed that one would be organised for approximately March 2021. Phil said he'd be in touch with the interested parties closer to the date and that there would be a limit on numbers.

Question: Malcom Ogg asked if the CCC could receive a copy of the newsletter.

Answer: Phil Hetherington confirmed that the CCC can be put on the (e)mailing list or that the newsletter is on the website.

Pumped Hydro Project

- The feasibility study for the project is ongoing with borehole drilling completed. There is now a review of these results and a full geotechnical evaluation is happening which will determine the project viability. Evaluation is due to be completed by June 2021.

Mine Closure

- MCC is currently scheduled to complete coal mining activities ~ June 2022. An evaluation is currently being undertaken on the mine land relinquishment requirements as outlined in the MCC approved consent documents
- A plan of works/studies is being developed that will be required to be undertaken whilst mining operations are being completed and once operations cease.
- In parallel with this work, MCC is undertaking a post mining land use study to identify future opportunities that the MCC mining and buffer land could be used for.

Question: John Madden wanted to know where the Muswellbrook Bypass would be going through MCC and where the Hunter Gas Pipeline was proposed to be located.

Answer: Grant Clouten and Brooke York explained where the Muswellbrook Bypass and Hunter Gas Pipeline would be located in relation to MCC.

Question: Malcom Ogg asked about the projects proposed for MCC post closure and if their impact was being investigated and considered in the final mine closure plan.

Answer: Grant Clouten explained that all the projects were in the early stages of development and that each project is undergoing impact assessment for the corridor of land they're proposed for.

Operational Changes

- In Open Cut 2, the final landform has been started. A decision was also made in early 2020 to reduce the coal produced by MCC in 2020 by 17% and to move this coal to 2021.

Approvals Update

- Nil

Weather

- Windroses:* Primarily strong south easterly wind directions for September and October and north westerly winds for August.
- Rain:* Above average rainfall for the year to date.

Dust

- PM₁₀:* All sites below yearly criteria. High results in early 2020 attributable to regional dust events or smoke haze from bushfires. Increased rainfall throughout the year has resulted in decreased dust levels.

Gas Monitoring

- Gas monitor results from Muscle Creek, were presented to the CCC. All results were below criteria. Full results are available on the company website. The monitor near the rural fire station will be removed following the council's approval of the Air Quality Management Plan.

Question: John Madden wanted to know if the concrete footings under the gas monitor would also be removed when the monitor was removed.

Answer: Brooke York explained that there were no concrete footings under the monitor near the rural fire station. She also explained that if there was a concrete footing with a monitor on a farmer's land that MCC would coordinate with the landowner to determine an agreed solution.

Water

- The increased rainfall throughout the year has resulted in a general decrease in electrical conductivity across site, as well as an increase in groundwater levels.

Blasting

- Blast monitoring results up until November 2020 were presented and were compliant with the blasting criteria. One overpressure result was above 115 dB in July 2020 but this result was below the maximum of 120 dB so it was compliant with the EPL

Noise Monitoring

- Noise monitoring results up until November 2020 were presented and were compliant with the noise criteria. Noise in winter is more problematic due to the atmospheric conditions. Several results in July were on the noise criteria for

the site, prompting actions onsite to reduce noise levels. Since July 2020 there have been several monitoring events where MCC was inaudible at various locations.

Complaints

- i. The complaint history until November 2020 was presented to the CCC. It was noted that there was an increase in complaints from a single complainant on Muscle Creek Road after the community was notified that the Muscle Creek Fire Station gas monitor would be removed.

9. General Business

Question: John Madden asked if MCC believed there would be an odour problem post mine closure.

Answer: Brooke York explained that the odour generated by a mine is linked to the activity of mining itself and that managing spontaneous combustion in accordance with the MCC Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan is intended to control odour during and after mining is completed at MCC. Brooke also explained that carbonaceous material is a key main issue for odour generation and that these materials are buried >15 m below the final surface which reduces the risk for odour post closure.

Question: John Madden asked if there would be an odour issue in relation to the old pit top in town.

Answer: Grant Clouten stated that the old pit top is outside the current mining approval area and MCC is awaiting council approval to rehabilitate it.

10. Submissions

Nil

11. Announcements

Nil

12. Next Meeting

Next meeting: The meetings for 2021 have been proposed for the first Tuesday of March, June, September and December. These dates are listed below:

- i. 2nd March 2021
- ii. 8th June 2021
- iii. 7th September 2021
- iv. 7th December 2021

March and September meetings will be distributed via email.

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

13. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting closed at 01:00 pm.

14. Site Inspection

Due to the impact of Covid 19, site tours of MCC have been postponed until further notice. Site tours are expected to recommence in 2021 for interested CCC members.