



MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

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MINUTES

Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee 3rd December 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
Mr. Garry Chapman	Community Representative
Ms. Kemer Edwards (<i>alternate for Ms. De-anne Douglas</i>)	Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council
Ms. Theresa Folpp	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Mr. Daryl Marshall (<i>alternate for Mr. Rod Scholes</i>)	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. Wayne Bartlett	Thiess Muswellbrook Coal Rehabilitation

1. **Open Meeting**

The meeting was opened at 12:08pm by Ms Julie Thomas.

2. **Apologies**

Nil

3. **Correspondence**

Out –

- Hard copy of the draft Environmental Management Strategy provided to the CCC members at the meeting on 4 June 2024.
- June 2024 minutes sent out to the CCC members 13 June 2024.
- Electronic copy of the draft Environmental Management Strategy sent to the CCC members on 13 June 2024.
- September 2024 update sent out to the CCC members on 11 September 2024.
- Invitation to the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Annual Forum sent to the CCC members on 11 September 2024.
- Electronic copy of the approved Environmental Management Strategy sent to the CCC members on 21 November 2024.

In - Nil

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

Nil.

5. **Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes from the previous ordinary meeting held on 4th June 2024 were confirmed as true

and reliable.

Moved – Mr. John Madden, 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, operations, project, rehabilitation, complaints and the results of the environmental monitoring data (weather, dust, gas, water, blasting and noise), at the mine site.

Operational Update

- Spontaneous combustion management has continued – minimal hot spots on site.
- Rehabilitation in Open Cut 1 has continued. Thiess Rehabilitation are completing this work.
- Mine closure studies have been ongoing.
- Ms. Julie Thomas presented photographs of the Rehabilitation's progression including bulk shaping and completed earthworks.
- MCC has a requirement to update the Environmental Management Plans as a result of the consent modification. These have been updated and submitted to Council for approval as required.

Project Update

- Pumped Hydro Update – Muswellbrook Pumped Hydro Company (MPH) has been issued 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. Site geotechnical drilling work has begun and will continue in 2025. MPH held community engagement stalls throughout November at various locations in Muswellbrook. The project specific website is now live. <https://emm.mysocialpinpoint.com/muswellbrook-pumped-hydro/about/>
- 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. OX2 and Idemitsu held a joint community consultation session on 28th October 2024 for the Muswellbrook Solar Farm project.

Weather

- Rainfall: below average rainfall for June to November period.

Dust

- *PM₁₀*: All within range, no exceedance to discuss. Monitoring will continue until Thiess cease bulk shaping works.

Gas Monitoring

- Gas monitor results from Muscle Creek and Nisbet, were presented to the CCC. Changes in SO₂ criteria due to the consent modification in February 2024. Results were all below the criteria level. Currently awaiting approval from the EPA for decommissioning of monitors.

Water

- Ground Water Sampling shows still within acceptable levels. Not significant change.
- Surface Water Monitoring – very dry water source, an increase in electrical conductivity due to low rainfall. Trends are linked to rainfall levels.

Complaints

- The complaint history until December 2023 to November 2024 was presented to the CCC. MCC has received a total of 12 complaints in 2024 to date. Seven relate to noise, three relate to lighting impacts, one to blasting and the other to dust.

Question by Mr. Malcolm Ogg: What were the lighting complaints?

Ms Julie Thomas: Lighting plants were up on the hill and in the line of sight of the neighbours.

Noise

- All results are well below compliance levels.

9. Submissions

Nil

10. Announcements

Nil

11. Next Meeting

Ms Julie Thomas proposed the next meeting to be scheduled for June 2024. An update will be sent to the committee in March and September. MCC to discuss with Council in relation to meetings ongoing in 2026 post rehabilitation.

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: Can we get a project update at the next meeting with a current view and a new view for rehabilitation updates?

Ms Julie Thomas: Absolutely, I will discuss with Wayne and share progression pictures.

Mr Brett O’Kane provided feedback on the Rehabilitation timeline. Bulk earthworks are expected to be completed in June 2025. Seeding and mulch another three months (September 2025)

Question by Ms Therese Folpp: How is the Muswellbrook Bypass progressing?

Mr Brett O’Kane: We in the process of selling part of our land to TNSW we have agreed on a price and expect payment in early 2025. MCC will lease some land for laydown areas we are still discussing the lease terms.

13. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting closed at 12:37pm.

14. Site Inspection

A site inspection was conducted on this occasion with Jennifer Lecky, Theresa Folpp, Daryl Marshall, and Garry Chapman reviewing the progress of rehabilitation in Open Cut 1 with Julie Thomas.