



MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

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MINUTES

Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee 3rd June 2025 Muswellbrook Coal Company's Administration Offices

Present:

Name

Mr. John Madden
Ms. Jennifer Lecky
Ms. Theresa Folpp
Mr. Rod Scholes (*Chairman*)
Mr. Brett O'Kane (*Head of Site*)
Ms. Julie Thomas (*Environmental Superintendent*)
Mrs. Erin Muffett (*Minute Taker*)
Mr. Wayne Bartlett (*Project Manager*)

Representing

Community Representative
Community Representative
Muswellbrook Shire Council
Muswellbrook Shire Council
Muswellbrook Coal Company
Muswellbrook Coal Company
Muswellbrook Coal Company
Thiess Muswellbrook Coal Rehabilitation

1. **Open Meeting**

The meeting was opened at 12:05pm by Ms Julie Thomas.

2. **Apologies**

Mr. Malcolm Ogg Community Representative

3. **Correspondence**

Out –

- December 2024 minutes sent out to the CCC members on 17 December 2024.
- March 2025 update sent out to the CCC members on 4 March 2025

In - Nil

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 – Ms. Jennifer Lecky, Second by Ms. Julie Thomas.

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 finished – no hot spots on site.
- Rehabilitation in Open Cut 1 has continued. Thiess Rehabilitation are completing this work. Bulk shaping is scheduled to be completed in June 2025 and civil earthworks to be completed in September 2025.
- Mine closure studies have been ongoing including installation of additional groundwater monitoring wells.
- MCC has the requirement to update the Environmental Management Plans (EMP's) as a result of the consent modification. All updated EMP's have been approved with the exception of the Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan and Mine Closure Plan. MCC continue to work with Council to have those plans finalised.
- Following completion of OC1 rehabilitation the following EMP's and associated monitoring will no longer be required:
 - Air Quality Management Plan
 - Blast Management Plan
 - Noise Management Plan
- All other management plans will be reviewed to maintain currency as site moves into the post rehabilitation phase.
- A variation to MCC's Environmental Protection Licence was received in May 2025. This removed monitoring and reporting requirements relating to blasting and spontaneous combustion management including gas monitoring. An additional variation to remove monitoring and reporting requirements relating to dust and noise will be submitted in September 2025.

Question by Mr Rod Scholes: Will any previous hot areas impact the land used for the Bypass?

Ms Julie Thomas: As a part of the mining lease relinquishment, Transport for NSW have been advised of the risk of disturbance of hot material.

Project Update

- Pumped Hydro Update – The project has been referred to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water for review under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). Development of the project's Environmental Impact Statement is well advanced, with most fieldwork complete. Geo-technical drilling at both the proposed upper and lower reservoir sites is nearing completion, with in-pit geotechnical drilling progressing. Socio-economic and visual impact studies are underway, alongside biodiversity stewardship surveys.
- Solar Farm Update – The application for the Solar Farm has been approved by the Independent Planning Commission (IPC). OX2 will be sending out notifications to neighbours and other registered stakeholders regarding this approval.

Weather

- Rainfall: February was below average rainfall with all other months well above the average rainfall.

Dust

- PM_{10} : All within range, no exceedance to discuss. Monitoring will cease at completion of civil works.

Gas Monitoring

- Gas monitor results from Muscle Creek and Nisbet, were presented to the CCC. Results were all below the criteria level. Approval has been received to cease the gas monitoring and the last results were obtained in April 2025. There has been no exceedance of criteria throughout the 8-year monitoring program.

Water

- Ground Water Sampling shows still within acceptable levels. Not significant change.
- Surface Water Monitoring –a decrease in electrical conductivity due to rainfall. No other significant changes.

Noise

- All results are well below compliance levels. Noise monitoring will cease at the completion of the civil works on site.

Complaints

- The complaint history until June 2024 to May 2025 was presented to the CCC. MCC has received 1 complaint in 2025 to date. The complaint related to odour.

9. Submissions

Nil

10. Announcements

Nil

11. Next Meeting

Ms Julie Thomas advised MCC was in consultation with Council in relation to ongoing CCC requirements. This will be determined at a later date.

Question by Mr. John Madden: Are we likely to have another meeting?

Ms, Julie Thomas: An update will be sent out in September, but it is undetermined if another meeting will be scheduled.

12. General Business

Ms. Julie Thomas advised the CCC members that remedial works will commence in July at the old pit top.

Ms. Julie Thomas presented to the CCC members images of rehab activities and progress on site.

Question by Mr Rod Scholes: What will the dam monitoring continue long term?

Ms Julie Thomas: No, once the water quality is deemed suitable it will function as stock water.

Question by Mr. John Madden: What wildlife is in the area?

Ms. Julie Thomas: We have undertaken annual rehab inspections. Birds, reptiles and mammals in are in the area. Particularly lots of Kangaroos.

Question by Mr, John Madden: What about the 110m tower at the Quarry? I received a flyer in the mail.

Mr. Brett O’Kane: If this is in reference to the CSIRO project, this is in its absolute infancy and this area is being considered as a possible suitable site. The project is not linked to MCC’s activities.

13. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting closed at 12:38pm.

14. Site Inspection

A site inspection was not conducted on this occasion due to the wet weather.