



# MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

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## MINUTES

### Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 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. 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
Ms. Cate Sims	Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

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

The meeting was opened at 12:15pm by Ms Julie Thomas.

#### 2. **Apologies**

Ms. De-anne Douglas Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council

#### 3. **Correspondence**

Out – June meeting minutes sent out to CCC members on 19 June 2023.

September presentation emailed to CCC members on 13 September 2023.

In – Request from Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue to provide an update to CCC members received on 10 October 2023

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

Nil.

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

Minutes from the previous ordinary meeting held on 6th June 2023 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:**

*Question by Ms Therese Folpp:* There might be a need to review the declaration of pecuniary interest as there are new guidelines.

*Ms Julie Thomas:* We will review the new guidelines to see if any amendment is required.

### **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 continuing with final composting and seeding. This is expected to be completed by the end of year.
- Spontaneous combustion management continues in Open Cut 1.
- Rehabilitation in Open Cut 1 has continued. Thiess Rehabilitation are completing this work. Mr. Peter York is here today to represent Thiess.
- 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. MCC are still in talks with MSC and discussions around this modification are ongoing.
- MCC has undertaken contamination studies at the old brickworks.

#### Project Update

- Exploration Licence A176 Update – Idemitsu Australia is working with the Resource Regulator to finalise the relinquishment of Exploration Licence A176.
- Idemitsu Australia has received approval from the Resource Regulator to relinquish ML1513 – Sandy Creek Lease.
- MCC has received approval from MSC to conduct remediation works at the Old Pit Top development. This work will be undertaken during 2024.
- Pumped Hydro Update – Idemitsu are now developing the pumped hydro project in partnership with AGL. Development activities including site surveys, geotechnical drilling, and environmental studies will be ongoing until 2025.
- Solar Farm Update – Development of solar farm is ongoing, with the project currently focussed on responding to feedback as part of the EIS approval process. Solar farm development is now expected to continue until end of 2024.
- NSW Mining's mining responsibly for today and tomorrow's new campaign video featuring the Muswellbrook Coal site was shown to the committee.

#### Environmental Management Plan Update

- MCC has a requirement to update the Environmental Management Plans at the end of mining activities.
- All MCC Environmental Management Plans have been reviewed and updated.
- The required consultation was undertaken. The only comment received were from DPE-Water on the Water Management Plan
- MSC are currently assessing these updates with this work to be completed after the

finalisation of the consent modification.

#### West Muswellbrook Project

- No update

#### MCC Mine Closure

- Mine closure activities focusing on the requirements for lease relinquishment are ongoing.
- In parallel with this work, alternate post mining land use studies are ongoing this includes Pumped Hydro and a Solar Farm.
- MCC are working with Transport NSW on interactions between MCC activities and the Muswellbrook Bypass. An application to modify MCC's consent to remove the bypass area from the consent footprint has been submitted to MSC. This will be assessed as part of the consent modification MSC are currently assessing.
- Hunter Gas Pipeline passes through MCC land. Discussions are being held with Santos regarding interactions.

#### Weather

- Wind Roses: for September, October and November were presented. Predominantly South Easterly Winds with a shift in October and November.
- Rainfall: Lower than average rainfall. Drier than average since May 2023.

#### Dust

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

#### Gas Monitoring

- Gas monitor results from Muscle Creek, were presented to the CCC. All results were within the realm of where we expect them to be. Full results are available on the company website.

#### Water

- Ground Water Sampling shows still within acceptable levels. Not a lot of change.
- Surface Water Monitoring – remains constant. Changes to frequency. Slight change in electrical conductivity due to dry conditions and low water levels.

#### Complaints

- The complaint history until November 2023 was presented to the CCC. MCC received a total of 4 complaints in 2023. Three complaints were relating to spontaneous combustion (odour) and one complaint related to road haulage.  
*Question by Mr Malcolm Ogg: What was the nature of the road haulage complaint?*  
*Ms Julie Thomas: It was in relation to damage to a person/s headlight from a rock which has fallen from an oncoming haulage truck.*

#### Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

- Cate Sims from Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee. The presentation contained an overview of the dialogue, key project and ongoing benefits, 2022 forum feedback and 2023 plan, communications and engagement, annual reporting, water usage project and 2023 School Mine Tours Program.

**9. Submissions**

Nil

**10. Announcements**

Nil

**11. Next Meeting**

It was confirmed that the committee wish to continue the current format for 2024.

The next meeting which is to be scheduled for June 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 Ms Theresa Folpp:* Can we have a quick discussion about rehab?

*Mr Peter York:* Yes. I will prepare a presentation for the next CCC. So far, we have been mobilising and recruiting additional staff. We have had some staff from other sites such as Mt Owen come over to MCC. The scope of work has included managing carbonaceous material and dozer pushing this down into the pit, we have been managing spontaneous combustion and will be blasting sometime this week on the highwall. We will finalise drainage and the design of the drop structure. Julie is overlooking the approvals and liaising with the Resource Regulator.

*Question by Mr Garry Chapman:* How many people do you have to answer to?

*Mr Peter York:* The whole community, both parties (Thiess and MCC) want the best outcome for the site.

*Question by Ms Theresa Folpp:* Will there be much blasting on the highwall?

*Mr Peter York:* Only small blasts, 6-8 in total.

*Mr Brett O'Kane:* Blasting is scheduled to be complete by March 2024.

*Question by Mr Malcolm Ogg:* Will contaminated material impact water?

*Ms Julie Thomas:* It is not expected to, but it is something that is part of the mine closure studies to confirm.

*Question by Ms Theresa Folpp:* Has recruitment of workers from other sites put a strain on other sites?

*Mr Peter York:* Not at this stage. Thiess are recruiting for experienced dozer operators and maintenance personnel.

*Question by Ms Theresa Folpp:* Are you sharing equipment between sites?

*Mr Pete York:* All the gear is here. We are using and maintaining MCC equipment and will bring in extra equipment as required such as a drill for blasting activities.

**13. Adjourn Meeting**

Meeting closed at 1:16pm.

**14. Site Inspection**

A site inspection was conducted on this occasion of the Thiess Rehabilitation Pit 1. Attendees at the site inspection were Mr Peter York, Ms Theresa Folpp, Ms Jennifer Lecky and Mr Garry Chapman.