



# MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

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**MINUTES**  
**Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee**  
**7<sup>th</sup> December 2021**  
**Muswellbrook Coal Company's Administration Offices**

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr. Garry Chapman	Community Representative
Mrs. Jennifer Lecky	Community Representative
Mr. Malcolm Ogg	Community Representative
Mr. Hamish McTaggart	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Ms. Theresa Folpp	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Mr. Grant Clouten ( <i>General Manager</i> )	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Mrs. Brooke York ( <i>Environmental Superintendent</i> )	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Mr. Scotney Moore ( <i>Minute Taker</i> )	Muswellbrook Coal Company

**1. Open Meeting**

The meeting was opened at 12:20pm by Mrs Brooke York.

**2. Apologies**

Mr Rod Scholes	Community Representative
Mr Noel Downes	Community Representative
Mr. John Madden	Community Representative

**3. Correspondence**

Out – June meeting minutes sent out to CCC members on 22 June 2021  
September Presentation sent out to CCC members on 14 September 2021

In - Nil

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

Nil.

**5. Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were confirmed as true and reliable. Moved – Mrs. Jennifer Lecky, Second by Mr. Malcolm Ogg.

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

*Question by Mr Malcolm Ogg:* Has the Mine Closure and Rehabilitation Management Plans been resolved with Muswellbrook Shire Council?

*Mrs Brooke York:* We have been making progress, but they're not resolved yet. A Development Consent amendment is in progress.

*Mr. Grant Clouten:* Rehab reforms have come into place, so MCC are aligning the Development Consent and Rehabilitation Management Plan to the new reforms. The Mine Closure Plan will indicate what potential options there are for post mining land use.

*Question by Malcolm Ogg:* Has Renew Economy been involved with MCC?

*Mr. Grant Clouten:* No, I'm unaware of who they are, we have other JV partners involved in the renewable hub.

*Mrs. Brooke York:* The Muswellbrook Bypass will be part of the closure process. Approximately 85% of the proposed bypass resides on MCC owned land.

*Mr. Grant Clouten:* Minister Matt Keen visited site last Friday regarding the Pumped Hydro project.

*Question by Mr Garry Chapman:* What will MCC do with the land post mining? Will it be subdivided or sold off?

*Mr. Grant Clouten:* No plan at the moment to be sold. Currently working on what future industries could take place on the land, with infrastructure like the large 33KV transmission lines running through site and the substation it opens up more options for potential industries including renewable energy.

*Question by Malcolm Ogg:* Asked if there were any closure celebration plans for MCC and the community?

*Mr. Grant Clouten:* We're working on something with plans for it to be held during Q1 in 2022.

*Mr Malcolm Ogg commented:* I understand Noel Downes is being replaced as a representative on the CCC.

*Mrs Brooke York commented:* I have been unable to contact Mr Noel Downes or any representative of Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Lands Council and so I am unable to confirm if they will put forward another representative for the CCC.

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

Mr. Hamish McTaggart introduced Ms. Theresa Folpp to the CCC.

## **8. Correspondence**

Nil.

## **9. Reports**

*Environmental Monitoring Data & Operations* – Brooke York 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

- Mining activities continued in Open Cut 1 with some material being dumped in Open Cut 2. Plan to be finished Q2 2022.
- Spontaneous combustion management continued.
- 392,894 tonnes of coal were mined, and 1.704 million cubic metres of waste was removed during the reporting period.
- 268.7 hours was lost due to adverse weather. 239.1 hours of rain, 3.4 hours to dust, 26.2 hours to fog.
- Exploration licence A176 Update: No exploration planned for 2021 on A176. Expiry date for the tenement is 13 September 2021. A decision to relinquish this area has been made and the required application to cancel A176 was

submitted in August 2021. MCC has determined there are no economic coal reserves in this authorisation area. A cancellation form and a final report have been submitted. Approval is still pending.

#### Environmental Management Plan Update

- The MCC Environmental Management Plans are required to be updated every three (3) years.
- Water Management plan is due for review in 2021.
- The IEA is required by the DA to be conducted every 3 years by an independent auditor approved by MSC. An Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) is currently being conducted by Umwelt.

#### West Muswellbrook Project

- No update – evaluation of results of recent drilling continuing.  
*Question by Mr. Hamish McTaggart: When will the determination for West Muswellbrook be done?*  
Mrs. Brooke York: The drilling results are currently being processed and will be presented to the Idemitsu directors.

#### Bells Mountain Pumped Hydro Project

- The feasibility study is now complete with the results quite positive. In essence technical feasibility has been confirmed.
- The next step is to complete a final detailed feasibility study and commence any environmental approvals.
- This detailed feasibility is not expected to be completed for ~12 months. Any further updates on the future of the project will after this period.

#### MCC Mine Closure

- Currently scheduled to complete coal mining activities ~ June 2020. There are no further coal reserves to be mined.
- An evaluation is currently being undertaken on the coal 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.
- The last coal mined and processed is planned for completion during June 2022. Coal transported off site is currently planned for completion in July 2022.

#### Old Pit Top Remediation

- MCC is preparing to undertake remediation of asbestos contamination of soil at the site of the Old Pit Top.
- The site is located on the corner of Victoria St and Coal Road Muswellbrook.
- An EIS is being completed and is expected to be finalised during Q4 2021.
- The EIS will outline how the works will be undertaken and managed.

- Once complete, the EIS will be submitted to the NSW Planning Portal for MSC approval.
- The process will include a period of public exhibition to enable community comment.
- Near neighbours of the site have been notified of the project via a letterbox drop.
- Anyone with questions or concerns is encouraged to contact MCC for more information.

#### Quarry Remediation

- MCC is currently undertaking remediation of asbestos contamination of soil at the Muswellbrook Quarry.
- The site is located on Sandy Creek Road Muswellbrook.
- MCC has engaged a consultant to manage the works.
- MSC were notified 30 days prior to the commencement of works in accordance with requirements.
- SafeWork NSW has also been notified of the works and have issued a permit.
- The asbestos found is contained in a single stockpile and is believed to be demolition waste placed there over 20 years ago (estimated).
- No friable asbestos has been found at the site.
- Near neighbours of the site will have been notified of the project via a letterbox drop.
- Anyone with questions or concerns is encouraged to contact MCC for more information.

*Question by Mrs. Jennifer Lecky:* Are any trees being removed as part of the remediation works at the quarry?

*Mrs. Brooke York:* No clearing of any trees will be done.

*Question by Malcolm Ogg:* Will the two asbestos areas be recorded?

*Mrs. Brooke York:* Yes, both the Quarry and the Old Pit Top locations have been recorded and reported to the relevant authorities.

#### Weather

- Wind Roses: for September, October and November were presented.
- Rainfall: Wettest November for Muswellbrook in history.

#### Dust

- $PM_{10}$ : All sites below yearly criteria. Rainfall saw a decrease in 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.

#### Water

- Surface Water Sampling shows nothing out of the ordinary to report, still within acceptable levels. Water quality in the OC2 void was sample for baseline data in March. This sampling is annual so will show trends over time after a few years of monitoring.

- Ground Water Monitoring – results are steady, there was a pH spike in February believed to be a data anomaly as the results returned to normal in the following two months.

#### Blasting

- Blast monitoring results up until November 2021 were presented and were compliant with the blasting criteria.

#### Noise Monitoring

- Noise monitoring results up until November 2021, were presented and were compliant with the noise criteria.

#### Complaints

- The complaint history until November 2021 was presented to the CCC. Four complaints to MSC for one MCC blast occurred in September. This occurred within a week after an earthquake tremor had occurred. The monitoring results for this blast were well within compliance levels.

### **10. Submissions**

Nil

### **11. Announcements**

BY – Julie Thomas will be returning to site in January 2022.

### **12. Next Meeting**

8 March 2022 presentation and site inspection of the proposed final land use

Next CCC meeting: Tuesday, 7 June 2022.

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

### **13. General Business**

*Question by Mr Garry Chapman:* Will the CCC continue to exist post June 2022?

*Mrs. Brooke York:* Yes

*Question by Mr Garry Chapman:* Could we have an inspection and presentation in the next three months of what is planned for the land post mining?

*Mr. Grant Clouten:* Definitely can do.

*Mrs. Brooke York:* Let's make it 8 March 2022 presentation and site inspection of the proposed final land use for MCC.

### **14. Adjourn Meeting**

Meeting closed at 1:24pm.

### **15. Site Inspection**

Site inspection was not conducted due to the wet weather.