



MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

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MINUTES

Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee 7th June 2022 Muswellbrook Coal Company's Administration Offices

Present:

Name

Mr. Garry Chapman

Mrs. Jennifer Lecky

Mr. John Madden

Ms. Theresa Folpp

Mr. Grant Clouten (*General Manager*)

Mrs. Brooke York (*Environmental Superintendent*)

Mrs Candice Longbottom (Minute Taker)

Representing

Community Representative

Community Representative

Community Representative

Muswellbrook Shire Council

Muswellbrook Coal Company

Muswellbrook Coal Company

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1. Open Meeting

The meeting was opened at 12:07pm by Mrs Brooke York.

2. Apologies

Mr Rod Scholes

Mr Noel Downes

Mr. Malcolm Ogg

Community Representative

Community Representative

Community Representative

3. Correspondence

Out – December meeting minutes sent out to CCC members on 13 December 2022.

2021 AEMR sent out to CCC on 31 March 2022 and copies handed out at the last meeting.

April Presentation sent out to CCC members on 17 March 2022.

Community Day Flyer and May 2022 Annual Newsletter sent out to CCC members 11 May 2022.

In - Nil

4. Declaration of pecuniary or other interests

Nil.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the previous ordinary meeting held on 7th December 2021 were confirmed as true and reliable. Moved – Mrs. Jennifer Lecky, Second by Mr. Gary Chapman.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil

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

Question by Mrs Brooke York: Did anyone attend the MCC Community Day on Saturday 28 May 2022?

Mr John Madden: Yes, I attended. It was a very well-presented day.

Question by Mr Garry Chapman: How many from the community attended?

Mr Grant Clouten: Exact numbers are hard to gauge but we had approx. 1200 on the day. We have received some good feedback on the day.

In response to questions from the CCC members, the ESCO solar project (Muswellbrook Solar Farm) was discussed. Project size and timing was discussed. The project is at feasibility stage with ESCO requiring development consent before the project can go ahead. ESCO is in the process of completing the environmental studies that will be required to accompany a development application for the project. Muswellbrook Solar Farm has a website with more information.

Question by Mr John Madden: ESCO people, who are they, what are they doing?

Mr Grant Clouten: During an extra meeting we discussed post mining land use opportunities, we highlighted the pumped hydro, proposed solar, bypass coming through and a range of opportunities. The solar was the one that was more progressed, ESCO; are a renewal development arm of Shell Australia, quite a big company. Idemitsu's Brisbane based renewables team have been talking with ESCO for well over 12 months and identified areas of future potential solar opportunity. We have a very good location here, as we are close to infrastructure to put the energy back into the grid. Idemitsu have a plan to increase the renewable energy within the business, so these projects are very appealing to Idemitsu to meet that need. ESCO are the developers and experts in this field so they are leading this project in partnership with Idemitsu. Current proposal is to install 25k megawatts of power and ESCO are currently in the Community Engagement stage and will then move to undertake a feasibility study over the next 12 – 18 months.

Question by Mr John Madden: So ESCO get it up and running and then on sell it?

Mr Grant Clouten: Potentially, often superannuation groups or similar companies like to invest in long term renewables for long term return.

Question by Mr John Madden: Is it 340 hectares?

Mr Grant Clouten: About that yes. The solar panels are interesting. I had questions about reflections, but they have no reflection, they absorb light. They are on track to be built in tandem with the bypass.

Question by Mr John Madden: If it goes ahead.

Mr Grant Clouten: ESCO still need development consent but the Muswellbrook Bypass will go ahead. Well, I haven't heard anything else, but the land acquisitions for the Bypass are yet to happen, I believe Transport for NSW would like to start construction at the end of the year.

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. Open Cut 2 is being shaped for rehabilitation.
- Spontaneous combustion management continued.

- 461,856 tonnes of coal were mined, and 0.890 million cubic metres of waste was removed during the reporting period.
- 418.8 hours was lost due to adverse weather. 414.1 hours of rain, 4.7 hours to dust, 0.0 hours to fog.

Mr Garry Chapman - Coal – Any deterioration of coal as we near the end?

Mr Grant Clouten – no not at all, we have a situation where we have more coal than dirt, in a fantastic environment.

- In April 2022, MCC submitted an application to MSC to make minor amendments to the development consent. Minor amendments to assist in the transition from mining into a closure execution phase and ultimately lease relinquishment. Any changes are minor in nature and there are no associated environmental impacts. As the site moves to closure there is expected to be a reduction in impacts given the reduced activity at the site. The proposed amendment is currently with MSC for assessment.
- Exploration Licence A176 Update – A decision to relinquish was made and the required application to cancel A176 was submitted in August 2021. 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 now overdue and work is continuing on this draft document.
- Three plans are due for 3-yearly review this year:
 - Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan
 - Visual Amenity, Lighting and Landscape Management Plan
 - Environmental Management Strategy
- MCC Environmental Management Plans will require review to address post closure changes. The approved Environmental Management Plans are available on the MCC Website. All Management plans will be maintained throughout the rehabilitation phase.

The review of management plans has been slow due to the current focus on development of the Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP) in accordance with the new requirements under the rehabilitation reforms by the Resources Regulator.

West Muswellbrook Project

- No update – evaluation of results of recent drilling continuing.

MCC Mine Closure

- Currently scheduled to complete coal mining activities ~ July 2022. 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. These studies have already commenced.
- 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 ~September 2022. We are experiencing bottle necks within the coal supply chain and weather and other minor delays are making it difficult for us to determine an exact date we will finish moving coal.

Old Pit Top Remediation

- MCC is preparing to undertake remediation of asbestos contamination of soil at the site of the Old Pit Top located on the corner of Victoria St and Coal Road, Muswellbrook.
- An EIS outlining how the works will be undertaken and managed has been completed.
- 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.

Weather

- Wind Roses: for January, February and March were presented. Predominantly South Easterly Winds for the quarter.
- Rainfall: Average rainfall, but March saw extremely high rainfall.

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. This time of year we often see a change in our results from the cooler weather. Additionally, we are reaching a section of mining that will see extremely difficult conditions as we near the last of the underground workings. Within another few weeks we should see a significant decrease in our gas production. Full results are available on the company website.

Water

- Ground Water Sampling shows nothing out of the ordinary to report, still within acceptable levels. This sampling is designed to show trends over time.
- Surface Water Monitoring – we have seen the fresh water onsite increase with the recent rain and with that we can see in the data a TSS spike from the rainwater picking up sediment as it moves across exposed soils.

Blasting

- Blast monitoring results up until April 2022 were presented and were compliant with the blasting criteria. MCC blasts are smaller than average so potential for exceedance is very low. Frequency of blasting is also decreasing towards closure.

Noise Monitoring

- Noise monitoring results up until May 2022, were presented and were compliant with the noise criteria. Cold and still weather may see an increase in noise over the winter months, but we have minimal equipment on site to generate noise.

Complaints

- The complaint history until April 2022 was presented to the CCC. MCC received no complaints during Q4 2021 and Q1 2022. 4 complaints in April 2022 and 1 in May 2022, all related to Spontaneous Combustion, attributed to our current challenging conditions with underground workings.
- EPA visited site to inspect spontaneous combustion (May), they were receiving complaints and came to site to understand the spontaneous combustion issues on site. EPA personnel were given an overview of the operations and the gas monitoring locations, before being given a

tour of the site to view the operations and spontaneous combustion control.

10. Submissions

Nil

11. Announcements

Nil

12. Next Meeting

Tuesday, 6 December 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: We are continuing with the meeting in December 2022?

Mrs. Brooke York: Yes.

Mr Grant Clouten: The conversation and focus will just change from Mining to rehabilitation and other projects, going forward.

14. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting closed at 12:41pm.

15. Site Inspection

Site inspection was conducted by Mrs Brooke York and attended by Mr John Madden, Mr Garry Chapman, Mrs Jennifer Lecky and Ms Theresa Folpp.