



MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

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MINUTES
Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee
8th June 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 John Madden	Community Representative
Mr. Malcolm Ogg	Community Representative
Mrs. Brooke York (<i>Environmental Superintendent</i>)	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Mrs. Candice Longbottom (<i>Minute Taker</i>)	Muswellbrook Coal Company

1. Open Meeting

The meeting was opened at 12:05pm by Mrs Brooke York.

2. Apologies

Mr Rod Scholes	Community Representative
Mr Noel Downes	Community Representative
Mr. Hamish McTaggart	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Mr. Grant Clouten (<i>General Manager</i>)	Muswellbrook Coal Company

3. Correspondence

Out – December meeting minutes sent out to CCC members on 14 December 2020
West Muswellbrook Newsletter sent out to CCC members on 14 December 2020
Link to Environmental Management Plans on website sent out to CCC members on 14 December 2020
March Presentation sent out to CCC members on 15 March 2021

In - Nil

4. Declaration of pecuniary or other interests

Nil.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 3rd December 2020 were confirmed as true and reliable. Moved – Mr Malcolm Ogg, Second by Garry Chapman.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

Nil

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

Project - Recognition of MCC to the Muswellbrook Coal Community.

8. Correspondence

Nil.

9. Reports

- A. *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

- i. Mining activities continued in Open Cut 1 with some material being dumped in Open Cut 2.
- ii. Spontaneous combustion management continued.
- iii. 140,602 tonnes of coal were mined, and 2.016 million cubic metres of waste was removed during the reporting period.
- iv. 424.8 hours was lost due to adverse weather. 420.6 hours of rain, 0.5 hours to dust, 3.7 hours to fog.
- v. Exploration licence A176 Update: No exploration planned for 2021 on A176. Expiry date for the tenement is 13 September 2021. Assessment will be made in 2021 to determine the most appropriate strategy for the licence (renewal/relinquishment). A Rehabilitation Assessment of historical drill holes will be completed as part of the assessment and submitted to the Department of Mining, Explorations and Geoscience – submitted on 9/03/2021, waiting on feedback from the Department.

Environmental Management Plan Update

- The MCC Environmental Management Plans are required to be updated every three (3) years.
- Air Quality Management Plan was approved by MSC in December 2020 and is available on the website.
- Water Management plan is due for review in 2021.

Question by Malcolm Ogg: With the current turn around time by MSC on reviewing plans, these documents will not be approved before mine closure.

Mrs Brooke York Answered: Yes, after speaking with MSC they advised her there is a backlog and we do have plans currently under review that we need to chase up before the end of this year.

The MCC Mine Closure Plan is one of those documents that we need amended now given some of the green energy options for post closure land use being considered, it shouldn't be a barrier to approval.

Mr Malcolm Ogg added: These are two separate issues; mine closure and future land uses should be assessed separately. The land will be rehabilitated and ready for next use, whatever that may be.

Mrs Brooke York: Agreed. These are the things that need to be clarified with MSC before the end of the year.

Mr Garry Chapman added: If renewables are the next move it makes sense for you to work towards that.

Mrs Brooke York: Agreed and our obligations for Mine Closure are clear. The current approved MOP and Rehabilitation Management Plan cover MCC's requirements for rehab. MCC's current plan for pumped hydro isn't located solely on MCC land and we may need to change our current approvals to accommodate it. There is currently a lot of dealings/meetings taking place in this space with other members of the Idemitsu Group and the regulators.

The feedback from MSC is that they are currently busy. We have had some feedback on the Mine Closure Plan, and we have completed several updates on the draft plan but have not received MSC approval. This will not prevent MCC from meeting our rehabilitation obligations. It is an administrative issue which we will continue to work to resolve.

West Muswellbrook Project

- 13 holes were completed, work is underway to evaluate the results, no plans at present to undertake further drilling at this time.

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 does not mean the pumped hydro will be built! There are still a number of hurdles to clear before any firm decisions could be made.

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.
- MCC is developing detailed schedule timings (last coal) and working through logistics issues to finalise the 2022 production budget. From this, site will be able to review the mine rehabilitation and closure work scopes.

Question by Mr Malcolm Ogg: Will you be dealing with post mining land use holistically or will it be bit by bit.

Mrs Brooke York: There is an overall plan and different partners are interested in different parts and each piece will require its own approval because of the different partnerships involved. At the moment some of the plan is very hypothetical and pre-feasibility.

Mr Malcolm Ogg: My main concern is political parties have not got a recipe of what is going to occur as a result of transitioning from Coal Mining. Mines are analysing their coal deposits week by week and determining how long it will be viable.

Mrs Brooke York: Our transition plan is a positive one for Muswellbrook, but it will need support from many stakeholders. The political landscape is campaigning to transition out of coal, and the timing may benefit MCC as Idemitsu aims to secure the future of the site in renewable power generation.

Weather

- i. *Wind Roses:* for March, April and May were presented.
- ii. *Rainfall:* Above average rainfall for January, February and March and April. May has been much dryer with average conditions returning.

Dust

- i. *PM₁₀:* All sites below yearly criteria. Rainfall saw a decrease in dust levels.

Gas Monitoring

- i. 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

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

Noise Monitoring

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

Complaints

- i. The complaint history until May 2021 was presented to the CCC. One complaint received yesterday, prior to this we had not had a complaint for 4 months (February, March, April and May).

Mr Malcolm Ogg: Was the one complaint received valid?

Mrs Brooke York: Yes, it was a cold still morning and the odour tends to sit in low lying areas in those conditions.

10. Submissions

Nil

11. Announcements

Nil

12. Next Meeting

Next meeting: Tuesday, 7 December 2021.

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 Malcolm Ogg: Because MCC has played such an integral part in our community, is there a plan for the community to be involved in the end?

Mrs Brooke York: We have done some work with the Muswellbrook Historical Society and updated our book to include recent years.

Mrs Jennifer Lecky: The celebration at Drayton for 30 years, was magic, it was a whole weekend it was great. It included branded T-Shirts for kids and merchandise. Swings and rock climbing followed by a dinner.

Mrs Brooke York: Any suggestions are welcome, please let me know your ideas.

Mr Malcolm Ogg: Can I move a motion? Can Jennifer be put in charge of providing you that information?

Mr Garry Chapman: How is the expense justified with no gain as the mine is closing?

Mrs Jennifer Lecky: What about a pit pony to join our cart in town?

Mr Malcolm Ogg: How is the public going to be presented the exit strategy? Muswellbrook Coal Company end of mine - recognition of MCC to the Muswellbrook Community.

Mr Malcolm Ogg: Recognition of MCC into the future, what happens to the MCC website once you cease operation, and is there an opportunity to reconfigure it too represent the history and highlights in our community?

Mr Noel Downes is no longer a member of the Wanaruah Council, Mrs Jennifer Lecky to follow up with contacts and find out if a new representative has been appointed.

14. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting closed at 1:30pm.

15. Site Inspection

Site inspection was not requested and was therefore not conducted.