

## Minutes of the Boggabri – Tarrawonga – Maules Creek Community Consultative Committee

**Meeting Held:** 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015, 12:30pm

**Venue:** Boggabri Golf Club

### 1.0 Present and Apologies

**Present:** John Turner (JT), Independent Chairman  
Jill Johnson (JJ) - Group Manager – Environment - Whitehaven  
Lachy Johnson (LJ) – Environmental Officer - Tarrawonga  
Craig Simmons (CS) – Area Manager Services – Maules Creek  
Julie Heiler (JH) - Community Representative  
Richard Gillham (RG) - Community Representative  
Carolyn Nancarrow (CN) - Community Representative  
John Bastardo (JB) - Community Representative  
Alistair Todd (AT) – Maules Creek Community Council representative  
to Boggabri Coal CCC  
Clr Catherine Collyer (CC), Narrabri Shire Council representative  
Tim Muldoon (TM), Group Manager Community Relations and  
Property – Whitehaven  
Clr Colleen Fuller (CF) – Gunnedah Shire Council representative  
Greg Griffiths (GG) – Boggabri Coal CCC  
Kerri Clarke (KC) – Maules Creek environmental representative  
Clr Lloyd Finlay (LF) – Narrabri Shire Council representative  
Kirsten Gollogly (KG) – GM HSEC – Whitehaven  
Lexie Frankham (LF) – Group Superintendent – Environment  
(Operations) – Whitehaven  
Bob Sutherland (BS) – Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer –  
Whitehaven  
Lynne Mackellar (LM) – Administration Assistant – Boggabri Coal  
Dan Martin (DM) – Environmental Superintendent – Boggabri Coal

**Observers:** Libby Laird (LL) – landholder  
Steve O’Donoghue (SO) – DP&E  
Wayne Jones (WJ) – DP&E

**Apologies:** Libby Guest (LG) – Community Representative  
Peter Watson (PWa) - Community Representative  
Jason Davis (JD) – Community Representative  
Clr Rebecca Ryan (RR) – Gunnedah Shire Council representative

### 2.0 Declaration of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

JH leases “Velyama” from Whitehaven and is in the ‘Zone of Affectation’ for acquisition for Boggabri Coal.

RG – Property falls into the ‘Zone of Affectation’ for acquisition by Boggabri Coal Mine (BCM).

CC – Leases country owned by BCM

JB – “Olivedene” – Leases property from WHC - Maules Creek Coal

JT – receives a fee for the CCC Chair role

### **3.0 Acceptance of Previous Minutes**

Moved by CC and RG.

### **4.0 Business Arising**

N/A

### **5.0 General Business**

#### **5.1 General status update from each Project**

##### **5.1.1 DM presented the Boggabri Coal overview**

*LL asked where the offset is. DM said across a number of properties. LL asked if they were in this area. DM said they were. LL is in attendance as an observer JT reminded the meeting the rights of an observer.*

RG provided further detail regarding the Boggabri Drover’s Campfire, saying apart from mining bringing people to the area, the Drover’s Campfire is the biggest tourism event in the area. RG acknowledged the support of the mines and said that people come to see how mining blends with the community. Lots of people come back each year as they are interested to see the progress of Boggabri Coal Mine, which provides tours. RG said the event won the Inland Tourism Award.

KC asked how the unapproved clearing occurred. DM advised that areas for clearing were marked in the field but there was an issue with the operator breaching an ambiguously delineated line marked in the forest. Additional management measures have since been put in place to prevent reoccurrence. KC asked if the area was due to be cleared in the future. DM said not under current approvals.

KC said she knows there was illegal clearing at Maules Creek as well. CS asked KC to provide further detail on what she was referring to. KC asked whether it was something to do with early clearing and then asked CS to advise if that was approved. CS advised that no illegal clearing had occurred at Maules Creek Coal, and all clearing was in accordance with the approved BMP. SO said the clearing was in accordance with what was approved at the time but approved clearing timeframes have since changed.

KC asked RG to elaborate on how the mines support the community. DM asked KC to provide further clarification and then referred to aspects such as direct employment and sponsorships/donations.

KC asked about the process for dealing with complaints. DM said complaints are followed up between the individual and the mine.

##### **5.1.2 LJ presented the Tarrawonga overview**

KC asked what was in the EPBC variation. LJ said it was to amend administrative requirements such as incorrect references and to align submission dates with State requirements.

KC asked when re-seeding for temporary stabilisation would occur. LJ said probably at the end of summer. LJ also noted that the temporary stabilisation is just overburden emplacements and isn't final rehabilitation.

KC asked how many staff. LJ said 120 employees and contractors.

KC said that the safety record was better at Maules. LJ said it relates to hours worked. KG specified that it is the number of injuries per million hours worked.

#### 5.1.3 CS presented the Maules Creek overview

AT asked how deep the pit is currently. CS said he wasn't sure exactly but estimated approximately 80m. KC asked how deep it will be. CS said the deepest coal seam (at approximately year 20) is about 300m. KC asked how much gets filled it. CS said in pit dumping is likely to commence in 2017 and details on the final void can be found in the EA.

### 5.2 Cumulative impact strategy update

CS provided an update on the cumulative strategies.

- Biodiversity Stage 1 Scoping Report has been finalised and the mines are working with DP&E and Umwelt on Stage 2.
- Air and noise strategies are being finalised, to be submitted to DP&E in November or December 2015.
- The water strategy is currently being updated following DP&E comment.
- The cultural heritage strategy has been submitted to DP&E and comments received. To be resubmitted first quarter next year.

KC asked if the strategies are progressive and get updated. CS said yes.

### 5.3 Environmental Trust Fund

JT advised members of the mines' requirement to provide \$100,000 each to an Environmental Trust as well as a percentage of royalties. A sub committee has been formed that meets regularly, with the latest meeting being held prior to this Cumulative CCC meeting.

Applications will be open between 1 February and 30 April 2016 with the first round of funding to be issued 1 July 2016. The sub committee agreed that the full \$300,000 should not be issued at the same time. NSC will receive the applications and undertake a very basic assessment (does it meet criteria etc) and then issue to the sub committee for assessment.

Successful projects will need to be within a 25km radius of the Leard Forest mining precinct. People don't need to be within that area to nominate a project but the project they nominate needs to be.

JH noted that interest is being earned on the money.

JT said administrative costs will be paid to NSC and advertising will be via mainstream means such as radio, papers, flyers, newsletters, social media etc.

JT suggested the next Cumulative CCC meeting should be held in May so the three CCC's can agree on the recommendations from the sub committee.

KC asked if the administrative costs come out of the \$300,000. CN said they do. JT said they're not a large component.

KC asked what sort of projects. JT said the criteria is environmental and sustainable. CN said people can come up with the ideas. CC said projects can include in kind contributions (ie. providing labour) and CN said there can be co-contributors.

GG asked what constitutes a project. DM to send the information overview document to CCC members. CC said to enhance or protect or provide an environmental solution.

## **6.0 New Business**

- 6.1 CC raised concern about the delay in implementation of the Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network proposed by the EPA, although she noted that she understood there had been some movement lately. CC asked if SO could provide an update. SO said he'd asked Lindsay Fulloon from EPA about it. EPA had sent a letter to NSC. Modelling work has been finalised and peer reviewed with the final report expected to be issued next month. It includes four stations.

JT reminded LL that she is an observer and shouldn't participate in the meeting.

CS said the network and website will be run by EPA but using data provided from the mine's monitors.

AT asked if the results of the air shed model are available. SO said he's not sure because he doesn't work for the EPA anymore.

- 6.2 JH suggested that the Tarrawonga CCC scheduled to 6 monthly instead of quarterly as the site is being managed well and there aren't many issues. JT advised that this should be raised at the next Tarrawonga CCC meeting.

- 6.3 GG made a general statement about % of Aboriginals employed at Boggabri Coal compared to Maules Creek and not being advised on Tarrawonga employment details. GG suggested all mines should consider greater employment of Aboriginals. GG is a proud local who wanted to see not only Aboriginal employment increase but also local employment.

- 6.4 KC asked who the other CCC environmental representatives are. DM asked who KC was and KC advised she was the environmental representative on the Maules Creek CCC. CC said Tarrawonga isn't required to have one. DM said Boggabri Coal doesn't have one but will be advertising again for a local recognised environmental group soon. CC said this will be the fourth lot of advertising for Boggabri Coal. SO said the requirement isn't standard across mines and is not a must.

- 6.5 JH referred to a commitment in the Boggabri Coal EIS in relation to provision of 6 houses that hasn't been met. The mine bought houses and knocked them down. DM said the issue was raised at the mine's CCC earlier in today and he has taken it on notice and will provide a follow up response. CN said all the groundwork had already been done by former employees of Boggabri Coal.

- 6.6 JH advised that the little, heritage listed house near the overpass that Boggabri Coal owns needs to be maintained as it has long grass around it. CN suggested knocking it down. JH said they can't because it is heritage listed.
- 6.7 JH raised concern about bushfire preparedness. She noted that LJ has things under control at Tarrawonga but questioned Boggabri and Maules Creek.
- 6.8 JH said now the Iron Bridge is not going to be replaced it needs to be better looked after. She noted that Crawfords and Mackellars are an issue with Mackellars being the biggest offenders for weight and speed. CS said Mackellars are short hauling and are under 42.5t.
- 6.9 JH thanked Boggabri Coal as the situation with feral pigs is improving. DM said it's an effort by all three mines. CS said there had been considerable effort by Whitehaven over the last couple of months in relation to green cestrum, boxthorn, pigs and goats. Whitehaven now has a dedicated person looking after biodiversity matters.
- 6.10 RG reiterated JH's concerns regarding bushfire. General discussion followed about properties being acquired by mines and leased out, areas locked up for offsets and resultant fuel loads and liaison between the mines and RFS. TM advised that Whitehaven was awaiting correspondence from RFS following the last meeting. Issue of mine equipment not being allowed offsite legally or because of contractual arrangements also discussed. JH commended Tarrawonga for always advising sightings of smoke ASAP. TM advised that Whitehaven has modified the requirements of property leases and now require lessees to make contact with RFS.
- 6.11 AT asked about the new Industrial Noise Policy. SO said it is close to being finalised and conditions in existing approvals still apply. CC noted that it's not retrospective. SO said the document is still in draft and there are expected changes to interpretation of low frequency noise and day time noise criteria.

## **7.0 Next Meeting**

May 2016

Meeting closed at 2:10pm.

John Turner - Chair