

Boggabri - Tarrawonga - Maules Creek | 2023 Community Consultative Committee

Meeting Held: Thursday 25 May 2023 from 1:30 pm held at the Boggabri Golf Club

Present: Alex Williams (AW) – BCOP, Alison Quiroz (AQ) – WHC, Blake O’Mullane (BOM), Crystal Dwyer (CD) – WHC, Daryl Robinson (DRo) – WHC, Cr Cathy Redding (CR) – Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Rob Hooke (RH) – Gunnedah Shire Council, Darren Swain (DS) – WHC, Emma Bulkeley (EB) – MCCM, Huw Morgan (HM) – WHC, Lloyd Finlay (LF) – Tarrawonga CCC, Luke Bowden (LB) – Boggabri Coal, Madeleine Wright (MW) - WHC, Mark Hathaway (MHa) – Community Representative, Richard Gillham (RGI) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Robyn Grover (RG) – Maules Creek CCC, Tim McDermott (TM) – BCOP, Michelle Henry (MH) - Narrabri Shire Council

Apologies: Colleen Fuller (CF) – Tarrawonga CCC, Cr Brett Dickinson, Elizabeth O’Hara (EOH) – Community Representative, Joanne McFayden (JMCF) – Boggabri Coal, Libby Laird (LL) – Maules Creek, Lyndall Crowley (LC) – Maules Creek CCC, Megan Martin (MM) – WHC, Mitchum Neave (MN) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Roselyn Druce (RD) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Steve Eather (SE) – Maules Creek CCC, Stewart Dunlop (SD) – Boggabri Coal, Talan Breden (TB) – WHC

Chair: David Ross (DR)

Independent Secretary: Debbie Corlet (DC)

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

DR welcomed everyone to the Joint CCC meeting. DR explained that at the last Joint CCC we talked about the housing shortage in this region, so today we’ll be holding a workshop on that topic.

2 Declaration of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

RGI, LF, RG – Have properties that have been acquired or fall into the ‘Zone of Affectation’ for acquisition or have family members at one of the mines. DR gets paid for chairing these meetings as does DC for typing the minutes.

3 Acceptance of Previous Minutes and Business Arising

The minutes for the November 2022 Joint CCC meeting were accepted by all present as an appropriate reflection on what was discussed.

4 Actions from Previous Meeting

Most actions completed. To be kept open are:

“TB to provide a graph over 3 months of any alarms. Also provide slides with the changeover in shifts and how employees cope with that constant back and forth change.”

DS was to talk about retired workforce returning to work. This is happening now. Will report back to the next meeting when it is more finalised.

5 Workshop on Housing

DR broke members into four groups to:

- Discuss a one-page document previously provided to members broadly summarising the root causes of the housing challenge; and
- Then use this document in an exercise to anticipate different versions of the future.

See separate document for the output created by members.

Key Learnings

These exercises took up the majority of the meeting's duration before DR reconvened the wider group for a discussion. Members believed that the following were the key issues that came out of their discussions:

- Housing affordability.
- Fly in and fly out workforce and the risk of the region's communities being populated by transitory residents rather than permanent residents as experienced in other coal basins.
- The impact on services associated with the increase of the population and the effects on childcare, education, medical, good health facilities.
- Critical importance of infrastructure and transport links that need to be built in advance.
- The need for transitional housing not only for mining staff, but also for essential services like teachers and nurses. We need, say, dedicated units.
- Consequently, there is a need for diversity in the housing built.
- Funding needs to be targeted / coordinated for local needs.

DR – What has the community done in each of the scenarios the groups developed? Quite often, when it comes to these challenges, there is a silo mentality – mines work in their silo / councils work in their silo – how do you get all to work together? Do we have all the players here in this group.
BOM – We're trying to target Landcom and get more affordable housing. Also wanting to meet with the Minister for Housing. Trying to work on things outside of the square. Developing own land. Developers aren't doing it, so who does it?

Both NSC and GSC described how they leverage their community strategic plans to gain grants. It was emphasised how important is the need for partnerships to achieve what the community wants. Furthermore, the mines are paying a lot of taxes that go to the State Government but should be restricted and at least some reserved for our local areas as the infrastructure costs millions of dollars. Need more money to make it viable to be able to build. State Government should be setting aside money that is coming from these mines.

DR – How do you make sure what is on the butcher's paper happens – what is the next step?

CR – We are definitely looking for partnerships. It would depend on the end goal.

Both Councils acknowledged that each shire has differences to the other with respect to their context.

ACTION: RH and CR to report back at the next meeting on progress made on housing.

6 General Business

DR – I have a request from EOH who has requested a map which indicates all of the offsets for all the three mines so everyone can get a sense of how the offsets all fit together.

ACTION: Mines to provide map of all offsets

7 Next Joint CCC Meeting – End of October 2023. DR – Thanked everyone for their contribution to this workshop.

Meeting closed at 3:36 pm.

Appendix 1

Action List

Page No	Action No	Action to be completed	Action Owner
1	1	TB to provide a graph over 3 months of any alarms. Also provide slides with the changeover in shifts and how employees cope with that constant back and forth change.	TB
3	2	RH and CR to report back at the next meeting on progress made on housing.	RH & CR
3	3	Mines to provide map of all offsets.	All mines