

Boggabri - Tarrawonga - Maules Creek | 2022 Community Consultative Committee

Meeting Held: Thursday 24 November 2022 from 1:30 pm held at the Boggabri Golf Club

Present: Cr Cathy Redding (CR), Cr Rob Hooke (RH), Colleen Fuller (CF) – Tarrawonga CCC, Darren Swain (DS) – WHC, Dean Scott (DSc) – WHC, Elizabeth O’Hara (EOH) – Community Representative, Emma Bulkeley (EB) – MCCM, Geoff Eather (GE) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Joanne McFayden (JMCF) – Boggabri Coal, Luke Bowden (LB) – Boggabri Coal, Megan Martin (MM) – WHC, Mitchum Neave (MN) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Richard Gillham (RGI) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Robyn Grover (RG) – Maules Creek CCC, Talan Broaden (TB) – WHC

Apologies: Cr Brett Dickinson, Hamish Russell (HR) – BCOPL, Lloyd Finlay (LF) – Tarrawonga CCC, Libby Laird (LL) – Maules Creek, Lyndall Crowley (LC) – Maules Creek CCC, Mark Hathaway (MH) – Community Representative, Rebecca Ryan (RR) – Tarrawonga CCC, Roselyn Druce (RD) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Steve Eather (SE) – Maules Creek CCC, Stewart Dunlop (SD) – Boggabri Coal,

Guests: Rolando Cavero (RC) and Sarah El-Sayed (SES) from ARTC

Chair: David Ross (DR)

Independent Secretary: Debbie Corlet (DC)

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

DR welcomed everyone to the Joint CCC meeting.

2 Declaration of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

RGI, LF, MN, SE, 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. EOH has a small package of Whitehaven shares. 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 May 2022 Joint CCC meeting were accepted by all present as an appropriate reflection on what was discussed.

4 Actions from Previous Meeting

All actions from the May meeting have been completed.

5 Presentation by ARTC – Narrabri to Turrawan Line Upgrade

Significant projects are being delivered by ARTC’s Inland Rail team and the Major Construction Projects team. Project information can be obtained through the following:

Website – www.artc.com.au/n2tupgrade. Enviroline – 1300 550 402. Email (community) – nswprojects@artc.com.au.

Project Benefits – RC informed members that the project will improve reliability and capacity for grain, cotton, freight services and passenger services. By completing the ‘missing link’ between the Hunter Valley coal network and Inland Rail, it will help improve efficiency and allow an increase in the freight volumes carried by rail. It is more about facilitating the transport of grain and agricultural produce rather than coal.

Project Summary – The works will involve track formation upgrades, new sleepers, upgraded rail and level crossings. The environmental assessment (Review of Environmental Factors, REF) identified construction and operational noise, ecology, hydrology, biodiversity, and traffic impacts as being the issues needing greatest management.

SES observed that the REF has been determined in September with detail design for the project ongoing. The project has been split into several construction packages. Construction is anticipated to commence in early 2023.

Questions from the Community

RH – During the upgrade period, what happens? Does the line close.

RC – We do have scheduled close downs, so maintenance crews can come in and work. We communicate with the management centre. We have approximately six close downs a year to do earthworks etc. Then we have to work out best times to avoid operational/network issues. We know exactly when they are coming through and can schedule accordingly.

RG – Will you be conducting any track formation reconditioning?

RC – Sections of the railway were not up to scratch, and we’ve identified them. There are two or three more areas including a section under the bridge which will need to be reconditioned. The rest of the track doesn’t require reconditioning.

MN – I live at Breeza – any lines from Gunnedah down to Werris Creek being worked on?

SES – I know there are discussions with the government to maintain the railway throughout the state. We can find out if any conversations are happening re: Breeza Murrurundi Gap.

EOH – There was \$44.7 million pledged in January 2021. Is this all still in budget.

SES – Yes.

A discussion then took place about the former Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile’s involvement with ARTC.

ACTION: SES – Notes that the organisation is structured with government as the majority shareholder.

MN – About the sleepers. I thought they had to go out to tender. Do you advertise those tenders that they are coming? They could be used to build jobs for the Indigenous people and to sell to the scrap yards.

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ACTION: SES – Will take that on notice and report back to DR.

RH – Can it be confirmed that the new federal government is committed to the Inland Rail Project?

SES – I only know what the public knows regarding this. It is our understanding that the government is committed.

LB – Local impact to the economy, how many people on the project – are you drive in / drive out?

RC – It depends on the skillset. We'll be engaging contractors with special skillset. We'll work wherever we can with local businesses – it all depends on where it is viable. There'll be two shifts for 12 hours each. Can't tell you a number because it depends on the scope. We've already engaged with Narrabri Council. Trying to establish relationships to be able to deliver.

Rolando and Sarah were thanked by all for their presentation and time today.

5 Company Reports

BCOPL Report by Luke

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| Biodiversity Conservation Trust | Regular progress meetings. BCO has submitted initial 25 conservation agreements. |
| Biodiversity Corridor | Department of Agriculture, Water & Environment – Query about changes made to the submitted Biodiversity Corridor. |
| Operations Update | Operations severely impacted by heavy rainfall and inability to access the mine. 27 shifts lost. |
| Biodiversity Corridor Plan | BCO submitted a revised Biodiversity Corridor Plan (BCP) to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on 20 July 2022. The BCP describes the measures to manage remnant vegetation and habitat in the corridor. The revised BCP contains a proposed legal mechanism for securing the corridor in perpetuity. |
| New to Industry Employment | In July, BCOP trialed a new to industry assessment centre in Gunnedah which received great interest from the community. Local candidates were prioritised. |
| Tyre Disposal Update | 2021 EPL reporting period – 300 tyres buried. 2022 EPL reporting period – 117 tyres buried in April. 83 tyres buried in June / July. Last 100 expected to be buried in November. |
| Modification 8 Update | LB noted that DPE approved proposed amendment pathway April 202. All technical studies for MOD 8 (amendment) report less or same outcome as presented in Mod8 2021 submission. Current submission date proposed week commencing 28/11/22. |

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| Mod 9 Update | MOD 9 Meeting Room Relocation & In Pit Rock Crushing is on public exhibition from 15/11/22 to 28/11/22. |
| Housing VPA Update | BCO has submitted a development application to construct two more dwellings in Boggabri. It is still under assessment by Council and has been referred to Traffic NSW for their assessment. |
| Sponsorships | Don't do sponsorships for individuals. It's for sporting groups, not-for-profits, arts, education and each application is assessed on its merits. |

CR – I've heard so many good things about the Expo you held, so congratulations to all involved.
 LB – Lots of volunteers and a big investment but well worth it. Thank you.

Tarrawonga Mine Report by Megan, Dean

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| Mining Operations | <p>DSc commenced by providing members with an update on the mine's safety statistics before discussing how mining has progressed.</p> <p>With respect to the mine's donations and sponsorships, donations for July to September were over \$92,000 in the local community. Sponsorships and Donations information can be found https://whitehavencoal.com.au/sustainability/community/donations-sponsorships/</p> |
| Environment | <p>MM provided an update on environmental activities over the past quarter. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topsoil stripping for the next 12-months of mining planned to commence soon. • Rehabilitation of southern emplacement area has started to enable revegetation in 2023. • Blast Management Plan reviewed and submitted to the Department of Planning – consultation with the EPA has been completed and the BMP resubmitted to DPE. Consultation completed on the Rehabilitation Management Plan. This will be addressed before being lodged with DPE. |
| Monitoring and Compliance | Noise, blasting and air quality all within TCM's approval criteria. |
| Tyre Disposal Update | A risk assessment was held at Tarrawonga for WHC's 2022 tyre burial program. The burial of ~60 tyres is currently being planned and will occur in late Nov / Dec in accordance with EPL 12365. |
| Water Management – Managing a Wet Year | There has been rainfall of 797mm up to 20 October compared to average of 568mm for a full year at Gunnedah Airport. Disruption to production; helicopters especially for compliance monitoring |

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Maules Creek Mine Report by Talan, Emma and Darren

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| Report & Overview of Activities | MCC ROM coal production of 1.8Mt for the quarter. MCC have achieved first quarter FY23 Recordable Injury Free. |
| Health and Safety | Q1 FY23 – COVID 19 Management – Continued monitoring of compliance with current COVID-19 preventative measures. COVID and Influenza Vaccination scheme in place. Improvement focus for Fatigue & Chemical Management. |
| Operator Alertness System | <p>TB noted that the system has been implemented to monitor and detect operator fatigue / unsafe acts to avoid harm to people. The system includes an IR Camera, Computer, Speaker, Seat Vibrator, Forward Camera. Fitted on specific equipment (-52 units currently).</p> <p>Worker fatigue management, nevertheless, remains the responsibility of the worker to present fit for work. The system does not replace the current fatigue management processes. All unsafe acts will be investigated and may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.</p> |
| Modification 9 – BOS and ETL | EB gave an update on the modification’s progress. No changes to the approved MCCM mining operation are proposed as part of the Modification. The Modification Report will be lodged and subsequently placed on public exhibition by DPE. |
| Clean Water Diversion | Highwall Dams 8 & 9 received little to no inflows with discharges occurring from Highwall Dams 10 & 11 and the Western Clean Water Dam. All inflow and outflow for the dams for the quarter is publicly available at http://whitehavencoal.com.au/our-business/our-assets/maules-creek-mine/ . |
| AHS Project Works | The AHS system at Maules Creek has expanded to excavator fleets, with a total of 18 trucks operating at any one time. |
| Community | More information on Sponsorships and Donations can be found at http://whitehavencoal.com.ausustainability/community/donations-sponsorships/ . |

EOH – Asked about the operator fatigue system and when it might be sounded.

TB – It looks at the eyes and if the eyes are closed for more than 2 seconds. It can pick up low, moderate fatigue and before then, even. For anything critical, it sets the alarm off and vibrates etc. Bat phone rings in the control centre.

MM – How many times has it gone off?

ACTION: TB – Taken on notice. Can provide a graph over 3 months.

TB – All data is confidential, and videos only shared between the employee and the Supervisor. Have picked up sleep apnea and work on health plans.

MN – When you go from day shift to night shift etc and then back from night to day, what is your statistics on the changeover shifts. How many do you capture in that.

ACTION: TB – I can get that information out of the system for the next meeting. It is more about serious misconduct like using mobiles. Fatigue is more about addressing issues and helping them get medical advice etc.

EB – The pit did not flood but we lost access to the mine with the roads flooding. We did operate under a reduced capacity. Taking in day shift only. Trains ran through the entire period.

DS – How much water was flowing in Back Creek.

EB – it is normally a trickle and up to about 2000 megalitres. We discharged approximately 5 megalitres a day.

MN – With the government changing the rules around work and retirement to bring older ones back in. Have you approached this yet to help older employees to drive trucks again?

ACTION: DS – I'll talk to our HR team.

MN – The mines have two years in which to report on progress on the management of tyres.

EB – We've taken it on notice, we have a whole department working on this. They are looking at the alternates. We can get them to present at the Joint CCC.

MN discussed the biodiversity corridor and asked if the corridor is to remain in perpetuity.

EB – no, not currently.

RG – People are going through road closed signs. All the workers to be wary – it's awkward position because if you come out of Maules Creek to Manilla there's no road closed sign but on the other side it is closed. We are doing the best we can with fences. All the fences have been flattened. It's probably the Maules Creek that use the road – and stock are out. For people to be sensible on the roads. The use of the helicopters was good.

EB – We're currently busing people from Manilla via the highway. Technically closed for 100 metres. In our pre-starts we already make sure everyone to be mindful of stock on the surrounding roads.

DR – Each of the mines to ensure it is part of the pre-starts.

7 General Business

Members were asked to work at their tables to discuss what general business they had as well as consider what they would like from future Joint CCC meetings.

EOH – Tyre recycling plant. Every time we have a CCC, we need to know how the tyres are progressing at all CCCs.

RH commenced a room-wide discussion about housing stress, skills shortages and competition for employment. He suggested that the mines and councils could work more together on these issues, particularly now that the Vickery mine is anticipated to commence works soon. He also reflected on the legacy to be left by the mines.

CR reflected that Narrabri Shire was dealing with the same issues.

DS – There's difficulties in attracting and keeping employees and one of the ways is in upskilling and keeping those students on the ground, where they grew up.

DR advised that there is a need for collaboration rather than a silo mentality

MH – Given my short tenure on these CCC's so far, I'd like to see a more collaborative approach and a need for greater focus on cumulative impacts rather than just a rehash of what each mine is doing.

Out of a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that some of the next Joint CCC meeting would be used as a workshop to discuss the housing issue. Each of the mining companies agreed to invite their relevant staff who project manage housing issues to provide an update.

MN reminded members that housing issues also need to consider the wider infrastructure requirements for having more residents.

ACTION: Mines to invite housing project managers to attend May Joint CCC meeting.

RH – (to DR) What is your take on the Joint CCC?

DR – I came in during tough times when there was much disagreement between all parties but we got to a point with good conversations. People are tired due to the pandemic, floods and volunteering, in general. But it is now a good time to refresh the Joint CCC meetings a little. We can hold more workshop-like discussions. But I hear that people would still like presentations from government representatives.

DR – Wished everyone a great Christmas.

7 Next Joint CCC Meeting – DR will advise in the New Year (but will be held in May).

Meeting closed at 4:07 pm

Appendix 1

Action List

| Page No | Action No | Action to be completed | Action Owner |
|----------------|------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Send everyone a copy of the ARTC presentation | DR |
| 3 | 2 | Report back if they are going to develop the railway from Gunnedah to Willow Creek. | ARTC |
| 3 | 3 | ARTC to report back to DR if Mark Vaille is still affiliated with ARTC. | ARTC |
| 4 | 4 | ARTC to report back if the sleepers go out to tender. | ARTC |
| 6 | 5 | 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 |
| 7 | 6 | DS to talk to the HR team about those who are retired coming back into the workforce. | DS |
| 7 | 7 | Report back next month on the tyre alternatives. | EB |
| 7 | 8 | All mines to ensure everyone at site is aware of road closures and takes care | ALL |
| 10 | 8 | Mines to invite housing project managers to attend May Joint CCC meeting. | ALL |
| 10 | 9 | Run housing workshop at next Joint CCC | DR |