



MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

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MINUTES

Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee

2 September 2014

At Muswellbrook Coal Company's New Administrative Office

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr Malcolm Ogg	Chairman (MSC)
Mr Raymond Butchard	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)
Mr Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)
Mr Chris Knight (<i>Coal & Environmental Mgr</i>)	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Ms Julie Thomas (<i>Environmental Coordinator</i>)	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Ms Lori Dennen-King (<i>Environmental Assistant</i>)	Muswellbrook Coal Company

1. *Open Meeting*

The meeting was opened at 12:16pm by the Chairman, Mr Malcolm Ogg.

2. *Apologies*

Mrs Glenda Watts (*Community Representative*), Mr John Madden (*Community Representative*), Mr Noel Downs (*Community Representative*) and Mr John Furner (*Muswellbrook Coal Company*)

3. *Declaration of Pecuniary or Other Interests*

Nil

4. *Confirmation of Minutes from the Previous Meeting*

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 3 June 2014 were confirmed as true and reliable.

Moved – Mr Raymond Butchard

Seconded – Mr Chris Knight

5. *Business arising from the Minutes*

- Details regarding dust levels on PM₁₀ Historical Chart for the month of September will be provided in the presentation.

6. *Notification of Items of General Business Proposed to be Raised*

- Update regarding MCC Mine closure status and related activities to be provided.
- Update on West Muswellbrook and Sandy Creek Projects

7. *Correspondence*

Nil

8. *Reports*

- A. *Environmental Monitoring Data & Operations* –Mr Chris Knight presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee. The presentation contained results of the environmental monitoring data (weather, dust, water, blasting and noise), complaints,

mine rehabilitation and mining operations for the previous 3 months (*April – June 2014*) at the mine site.

B. *Report Discussion* –

Weather

- i. *Windroses*: Prevailing winds this quarter were from the south east in April with north-westerlies dominating most of May and June.
- ii. *Rain*: below average rainfall recorded during May and June with above average precipitation of 59.6mm in April. Total rainfall for the quarter was 83.6 mm. There was a total 115 production hours lost due to wet weather.

Dust

- iii. *Dust Deposition*: Average levels at all non-mine owned properties were within the EIS prediction for Years 5-9 of the development. Gauge DM10 is located on MCC mine owned land adjacent to mining operations. Possible removal of this gauge may be considered for discussion because the location is no longer a representative area for dust sampling. All other gauges are well below the EPA monthly criteria.
- iv. *TSP (Total Suspended Particulates)*: Overall, average levels were well below the NHMRC annual average criteria.
- v. *PM₁₀*: Levels over the reporting period were below the EIS prediction for Years 5-9 of the project and that all three sites showed largely similar result patterns. A chart showing historical PM₁₀ levels was also included in the presentation. An elevation in dust levels, noted in September 2013, were caused by other influences, not related to MCC operations, as indicated by prevailing wind directions during this period. Higher PM₁₀ levels recorded at Site 2 during the summer months were directly caused by dry conditions (low rainfall) and road works occurring next to the monitor.
ACTION – Mr Flemming would like to have a chart that displays the correlation between Site 1 vs each of the UHAQMN locations (Bowman Park, Aberdeen, NW Muswellbrook) separately.

Water

- vi. Quality of surface and ground water remained generally consistent during the reporting period. Groundwater EC levels are similar to other aquifers found in the area. A slight increase in pH and Conductivity levels at Dam 1/2 and the Final Settling Pond were due to evaporation rates. Electrical Conductivity levels have been relatively consistent in mine water dams. Nil mine water left the site (MCC does not discharge mine water). MCC has been pumping water from the workings to allow for coal extraction in the No.1 Open Cut. Water level in the underground has remained fairly consistent over the reporting period.
ACTION – Change scale on quarterly EC chart for easier viewing.

Blasting

- vii. There were 25 blast events conducted at MCC Open Cut Operations between 1 April and 30 June 2014. All blasts were conducted in the No.1 Open Cut. Monitors are tested daily by an independent consultant to ensure that they are operational. All results for the reporting period were below EPA criteria.

Noise

- viii. The attended noise monitoring survey was recently conducted (late May 2014). Data and results will be presented at the next CCC meeting, but report is available on the website. <http://www.idemitsu.com.au/>

Complaints

- ix. The total number of complaints received in 2013-2014 was up a little from the previous year. Dust issues have been caused by mining of hot area affected by spontaneous combustion. These areas receive water infusion and are under control. Dust criteria levels were not exceeded.

All reverse alarms have been changed on the new trucks.

Discussion: Mr Flemming commented that he has seen quite a bit of smoke arising from the Commons area a few weeks ago and noted a couple of piles of brush have been burnt on MCC's side of the fence. Mr Knight added that the smoke may have been from the burning of boxthorn in that area.

Rehabilitation

- x. Rehabilitation on the 260 Dump has come along very well.

Discussion: Mr Butchard asked if any hazard reductions (fire) have been done around the perimeter of the mine. Mr Knight reported that boundary slashing, prior to bushfire season, will be done by the end of the year and will discuss with the RFS the topic of burning around the Commons. Mr Butchard commented that weather conditions haven't been conducive for burning and Mr Ogg added that fire break clearing is enforced in Western Australia. Mr Knight also noted that all MCC properties are actively grazed.

Mining Update – Mr Chris Knight

- xi. Coal extraction continued in the No. 1 Open Cut.
xii. 401 tonnes of coal was mined and 2 million cubic metres of waste was removed during the reporting period.
xiii. 1.4 million tonnes of product coal will be mined this year.
xiv. During the reporting period, a total of 115 production hours were impacted by wet weather.

Discussion: Mr Butchard enquired about the intended final closure date of the mine and when coal mining operations would cease. Mr Knight replied that the last coal was due to be mined approximately 2018 and mine closure would be around 2020.

ACTION – Mr Knight will look in to the possibility of providing a more detailed update of where the mine is and its future plans.

9. Submissions

Nil

10. General Business

A. Update on Sandy Creek Project – Mr Chris Knight

Development Consent (valid until 2020) and Mining Lease (valid until 2023) are both held by MCC. No exploration is planned for 2014 and any further works are on hold. All exploration drill holes have been sealed, rehabilitated and signed off by land holder.

Discussion: Mr Butchard asked what the size of the resources were and Mr Knight that originally they were 50 million tonnes but are now down to 25 million tonnes after reviewing the drilling results.

B. Update on West Muswellbrook Project – Mr Chris Knight

MCC applied for renewal of AL19 and Gateway assessment studies are currently underway with Stage 1 now complete. Stage 2 started 2 September with 88 sites. SLR is conducting the studies.

Discussion: Mr Butchard asked if there was a substantial reserve in this area and Mr Knight explained there was about 10 million tonnes, about 21 years. Mr Flemming wanted to know if port capacity was considered as part of the feasibility study and if the Gateway application was in. Mr Knight reported that the Gateway application would be in sometime this year and that the Ulan line would be accessed for the project. He also added that the Gateway certificate would be required before proceeding with the project with expected date around 2022.

C. Mine Closure – Mr Chris Knight

Ms Thomas reported that the MOP currently being updated will include mine closure. Process is in the preliminary stages at present but CCC will be informed as it develops. Mr Knight added that the out of pit dump is used for sealing of the highwall.

11. Announcements

- A. Mr Chris Knight announced MCC was going through some restructuring at present and he had been made redundant. He then introduced the Committee to the new Environmental Coordinator, and acting Environmental Officer, Ms Julie Thomas. Ms Thomas has worked in the NSW coal mining industry for 15 years.

12. Next Meeting

Tuesday, 2 December 2014

Meeting will be held at 12:00pm in the Board Room at Muswellbrook Coal Company Administrative Office. A sandwich lunch and refreshments shall be provided.

A site inspection will be held dependent on the weather and availability of committee members.

2015 Future Meeting(s):

3 March 2015

2 June 2015

1 September 2015

1 December 2015

13. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting closed at 1:27pm.