



MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

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MINUTES

Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee

2 December 2014

At Muswellbrook Coal Company's Administrative Office

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr Malcolm Ogg	Chairman (MSC)
Mr Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)
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 12:08pm by the Chairman, Mr Malcolm Ogg.

2. *Apologies*

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

3. *Reports*

A. *Environmental Monitoring Data & Operations* – Ms Julie Thomas 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 (*July - September 2014*) at the mine site.

B. *Report Discussion* –

Mining Update

- i. Dumping of waste is now occurring in the No.2 Open Cut as part of mining strategy.
- ii. Currently there are no operations on Saturday nights.
- iii. 518,301 tonnes of coal was mined and 1.98 million cubic metres of waste was removed during the reporting period.

Rehabilitation

- iv. No rehabilitation was conducted during the reporting period, but the total area of rehabilitated land to date is ahead of MOP commitments. 6.4 hectares are currently being bulk shaped in preparations for topsoiling at the end of the year, with seeding to commence in Autumn 2015.

Discussion: Mr Flemming asked if there was a dust risk with topsoiling and Ms Thomas commented that dust minimisation is always a priority with any MCC

operation. A cover crop, prior to seeding, would be considered in February or March to help reduce possible dust or erosion issues.

Approvals

- v. A revised EPL was issued in October. The Pollution Reduction Program condition regarding wheel generated dust studies was removed and a new condition relating to dust on exposed areas was added.
Also, a revised MOP amendment was approved last week that will allow for mining to continue until March 2015 with the understanding that a more robust MOP, that will cover mine closure, is to be submitted during the first quarter of 2015.

W. Muswellbrook Project

- vi. Gateway application expected to be submitted in early December.

Weather

- i. *Windroses*: Consistent with seasonal expectations. Appeared to have above normal gusty conditions during the reporting period.
- ii. *Rain*: Above average precipitation in July and August, with September falling below normal.

Dust

- iii. *Dust Deposition*: Average levels at all non-mine owned properties were within the compliance levels. 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)*: Site 3, near the Daracon Quarry, recorded elevated dust levels in July due to the mining of hot materials in the No.1 Open Cut.
- v. *PM₁₀*: Elevated PM₁₀ levels were also indicated at Site 3, but averages remained below criteria parameters throughout the reporting period. In general, the 2014 PM₁₀ dust levels have remained below historical averages.

Water

- vi. Quality of surface and ground water remained generally consistent with previous results during the reporting period.

Blasting

- vii. There were 36 blast events conducted at MCC Open Cut Operations between 1 July and 30 September 2014. All blasts were conducted in the No.1 Open Cut. Monitors are tested daily by an independent consultant to check that they are operational. All results for the reporting period were below EPA criteria.
Discussion: Mr Flemming asked how the monitors are checked and Ms Thomas explained the consultants dial in remotely to each monitor daily to confirm the unit is operational and armed.

Noise Monitoring

- viii. 6-monthly attended noise monitoring was conducted in late May 2014. Results were presented and indicated no criteria exceedances.

Complaints

- ix. Odour from spontaneous combustion was the primary issue during the reporting period.

ACTION: Determine if there is a pattern between the time of year (month) vs number of complaints.

ACTION: Revise the Complaints Register diagram for better legibility.

4. **Break** – Ms Thomas took CCC members out to observe a blast in the No.1 Open Cut. Meeting reconvened at 1:20pm.

5. **Confirmation of Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 2 September 2014 were confirmed as true and reliable.

6. **Business arising from the Minutes**

Nil

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

Nil

8. **Correspondence**

Nil

9. **Submissions**

Nil

10. **General Business**

A. New CCC Guidelines – Mr Craig Flemming

The Department of Planning & Environment (DPE) now requires that the new CCC guidelines be followed. CCC members would be approved by DPE instead of Council. These new guideline do not necessarily pertain to MCC since Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) is their consent authority, not DPE. MCC is not required to change to the new guidelines so there will be no changes to MCC's CCC. MSC would like to consider having other operational meetings outside the CCCs to discuss other issues relating to the relationship between MCC and MSC (e.g. road works).

Discussion: Ms Thomas stated that MCC was happy to continue to have MSC involved with their CCC.

11. **Announcements**

Nil

12. **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, 3 March 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):

2 June 2015
1 September 2015
1 December 2015

13. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting closed at 1:50pm.