



# MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

## SITE OFFICE

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## MINUTES

### Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee

3 March 2015

### At Muswellbrook Coal Company's Administrative Office

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr Raymond Butchard	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)
Mr Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)
Mr John Madden	Community Representative
Mr Noel Downs	Community Representative
Ms Julie Thomas ( <i>Environmental Coordinator</i> )	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Mr Bill Archer ( <i>Operations Manager</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 Raymond Butchard.

#### 2. **Apologies**

Mr Malcom Ogg (*Chairman*) and Mrs Glenda Watts (*Community Representative*)

*Moved – Mr Noel Downs*

*Seconded – Mr John Madden*

#### 3. **Confirmation of Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

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

*Moved – Ms Julie Thomas*

*Seconded – Ms Lori Dennen-King*

#### 4. **Business arising from the Minutes**

Nil

#### 5. **Notification of Items of General Business Proposed to be Raised**

Nil

#### 6. **Correspondence**

Nil

#### 7. **Reports**

A. *Environmental Monitoring Data & Operations* – Ms Julie Thomas presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee. The presentation contained an update

on approvals, mine operations, rehabilitation, complaints and the results of the environmental monitoring data (weather, dust, water, blasting and noise), for the previous quarter (*October - December 2014*) at the mine site.

B. *Report Discussion –*

Mining Update

- i. Dumping of waste continued the No.2 Open Cut as part of mining strategy.
- ii. 402,868 tonnes of coal was mined and 1.94 million cubic metres of waste was removed during the reporting period.
- iii. 739.3 machine hours lost due to wet weather and 71.8 hours for windy conditions.

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 were bulk shaped and topsoiled by the end of December in preparation for seeding in Autumn 2015.

Approvals

- v. A revised EPL was issued in October 2014. The Pollution Reduction Program condition regarding wheel generated dust and adverse weather studies was removed and a new condition relating to dust on exposed areas was added. Also, an amendment to the current MOP was submitted to DRE in early November and approval received on 24 November 2014. The amendment will allow for mining to continue until March 2015 under current MOP conditions while MCC and DRE finalise the Closure MOP.

*Discussion: Mr Flemming asked if wheel generated dust mitigation and 12-month dust monitoring studies on operations would continue. Ms Thomas replied that an Adverse Weather Response Plan would be incorporated into the revised Dust Management Plan in 2015. Mr Flemming also commented that informational graphs of MCC dust levels need to be available for public viewing. Mr Butchard asked if there was a tick-and-flick type process in place for reacting to adverse weather conditions. Mr Archer stated that communication regarding adverse weather conditions is well covered with occurrence of two management meetings, distribution of a dust risk report and the review of meeting minutes each day.*

W. Muswellbrook Project

- vi. Gateway application submitted 11 December 2014.  
*Discussion: Mr Flemming commented that previously MCC's CCC was not the appropriate venue for discussion of the West Muswellbrook Project. Ms Thomas stated she only wanted to give a brief update since the project had currently been in the media and asked if the Committee members would like to continue updates going forward. Mr Madden agreed that he would like to continue to be updated on the project. Mr Butchard also added that this was not the proper forum to invite W. Muswellbrook interested parties and this forum should be used to only deal with MCC operations but an update on the*

*project would be fine and would be entirely up to MCC to decide. Ms Thomas was happy to provide the information at the quarterly meetings.*

#### Sandy Creek Project

- i. Project is approved but is not economically viable under current economic conditions. No exploration is planned.

#### Weather

- i. *Windroses*: Primarily south-easterly wind directions during the reporting period which is consistent with seasonal expectations.
- ii. *Rain*: Above average precipitation in December with October and November 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)*: All sites below predictions and criteria.
- v. *PM<sub>10</sub>*: All below criteria but can still see the impact of the 2007 dust storm on historical averages.

*Discussion: Mr Flemming asked if the BAM (beta attenuation mass monitor) showed similar results to a TEOM. Ms Thomas commented that the BAM shows similar results to the TEOM.*

#### Water

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

*Discussion: Mr Butchard asked why sampling was conducted on Muscle Creek. Ms Thomas commented that sampling was done both upstream and downstream to evaluate any impacts that may occur. Mr Flemming asked if the underground workings collected any rainwater. Ms Thomas explained that rainwater did not flow directly into the workings and that water is removed by pump-out and returned through infusion activities.*

#### Blasting

- vii. There were 25 blast events conducted at MCC Open Cut Operations between 1 October and 31 December 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.

#### Noise Monitoring

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

## Complaints

- ix. 10 complaints were recorded between 1 October 2014 and 28 February 2015. No complaints received in February. Most complaints were in regards to blasting (3) and odour from spontaneous combustion (4).

*Discussion: Mr Flemming wanted to know where the blast complaints were coming from and Ms Thomas replied, Bowman Street. Mr Madden had noticed some odour from his property and asked if MCC was still working in the "hot" areas. Ms Thomas confirmed that operations were still on-going in this area of the pit.*

## **8. Submissions**

Nil

## **9. General Business**

### A. Annual Reporting Period – Ms Julie Thomas

With the approval of MSC and the DRE, MCC's reporting period will now be on a calendar year. A 6-month Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR) covering July to December 2014 will be prepared.

## **10. Announcements**

Nil

## **11. Next Meeting**

Tuesday, 2 June 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):**

*1 September 2015*

*1 December 2015*

## **12. Adjourn Meeting**

Meeting closed at 1:10pm.