



MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

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MINUTES
Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee
7 June 2011
At Muswellbrook Coal Company Offices

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Mr Noel Downs (<i>Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Lands Council</i>)	Community Representative
Mr Chris Knight (<i>Coal & Environmental Mgr</i>)	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Mr Colin Davies (<i>Environmental Consultant</i>)	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Ms Lori Dennen-King (<i>Environmental Assistant</i>)	Muswellbrook Coal Company

1. *Open Meeting*

The meeting was opened at 12:20pm by Mr Craig Flemming.

2. *Apologies*

Mr John Furner (*General Manager - Muswellbrook Coal Company*)

Other Committee Members not present - Mrs Glenda Watts (*Community Representative*), Mr Malcom Ogg (*Chairman*) and Mrs Christine Phelps (*Deputy Chairman*)

3. *Public Participation*

Nil

4. *Confirmation of Minutes from the Previous Meeting*

Minutes from the previous meeting were confirmed as true and reliable.

Moved – Mr Chris Knight

Seconded – Mr Colin Davies

5. *Business arising from the Minutes*

Nil

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

Nil

7. *Correspondence*

Nil

8. Reports

A. *Environmental Monitoring Data* – Mr Colin Davies presented a Powerpoint presentation to the committee. The presentation contained results of the environmental monitoring data for weather, dust, water, and blasting for the previous three months (*January – March 2011*) at the mine site.

B. *Report Discussion* –

Weather

- i. *Windroses*: prevailing winds during the reporting period were generally from the south-east which is typical during the summer months.
- ii. *Rain*: precipitation over the reporting period was below average.

Dust

- iii. *Dust Deposition*: Gauge DM10, located adjacent to the entry road and near current mining operations, is on MCC owned land and had slightly elevated levels as expected. All sites at residential areas remain below the $4\text{g}/\text{m}^2\cdot\text{month}$ criteria.

Discussion: Mr Flemming asked where DM15 was located and why the average dust level had declined so drastically. Mr Knight noted the gauge is located near the No.2 Open Cut and operations in this pit have been minimal over the last 6 months.

- iv. *TSP (Total Suspended Particulates)*: Current year-to-date averages still remain below NHMRC criteria of $90\text{ug}/\text{m}^3$. TSP HVAS units run for 24 hours every 6 days.
- v. *PM₁₀*: During the reporting period (January-March 2011), annual average levels remained below the Long Term DECCW Criteria of $30\text{ug}/\text{m}^3$.

Water

- vi. Quality of surface and ground water very stable.

Discussion: Mr Downs asked if the groundwater was from aquifers. Mr Knight commented that there is some groundwater but the major aquifers are the coal seams. The 250mls of rainwater received in June 2007 cut directly into the underground workings. MCC has maintained water level in the working of 150RL but with mining now in Strip 16 that has been reduced to 140RL. Mr Downs also asked if MCC notes a drastic drop in the outside monitoring bores. Mr Knight added that major dips in groundwater levels rarely occur, even monitors next to the cut.

Blasting

- vii. 23 blasts at MCC Open Cut Operations (January-March 2011) which included 4 blast events in No.2 Open Cut). There was one non-conformance recorded at the Nisbet monitor on 4 March 2011. Incident was self-reported to the DECCW (OEH). Investigative report concluded the result of the non-conformance was believed to be caused by a wave-front reinforcement due to timing of the blast. No community complaints were recorded. As a result, MCC has changed the tie-in sequence to a staggered design.

Discussion: Mr Flemming asked what kind of blasting was being conducted in the No.2 Open Cut. Mr Knight explained that production blasting was currently being conducted in this pit.

Complaints

- viii. There was one complaint recorded regarding odour from spontaneous combustion during the reporting period. More recently, since March 2011, MCC has received 3 blast complaints, 1 odour/dust complaint and 1 complaint regarding a broken windscreen from a coal road truck. Blast complaints were due to a timing delay issue and blasts in the No.2 have been modified. Due to a delay in the delivery of blasting supplies and safety issues, the blast on 2 June was fired after 5pm. MSC was contacted regarding firing time and a detail report will be submitted to explain why the blast event occurred after 5pm.

Rehabilitation

- ix. Current rehabilitation activities include the incorporation of gypsum and mulch in No.1 Rehab area and mulching of vegetation behind tree clearing operations commenced. An organic compost (OGM) trial will be conducted in the No.2 rehab area – material delivery would commence at the beginning of June.

Mining Update – Mr Chris Knight

- x. Coal extraction continues to the Muswellbrook/St Heliers/Upper Lewis Seam in Strip 14.
- xi. No need to shut down diggers due to noise over the last 6 months. Noise levels from operations have been low.
- xii. Water infusion for Spontaneous Combustion Management has commenced.

Conditions Update – Mr Chris Knight

DA Modification 205/2002 approved by MSC on 20 December 2010 contained additional conditions to the Consent

Condition 49 (revision of Site Water Management Plan)

- Consultation with NOW completed on 21 April 2011
- Revision of SWMP currently being finalized for submission to MSC on 23 June 2011

Condition 57 (Aboriginal Cultural Education program)

- Program is currently being drafted and will be sent to representatives of the Aboriginal community for comment

Discussion: Mr Downs inquired to which Aboriginal groups would be included in the consultation and commented that Victor Perry offers training, the RTA is developing an Aboriginal education package and Suzy Worth with the Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Lands Council could give feed back as well. Mr Down also added the clearing and topsoil removal information was important.

9. Submissions

Nil

10. General Business

- Mr Knight gave the committee an overview of the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network and the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue.
- Sandy Creek - Mr Knight announced MCC was conducting exploration drilling in this area to determine coal quality plus geotechnical evaluations. 7 holes have been done to date. Currently reviewing a mining method to reduce subsidence (left/right extraction). Mr Rob Tickle, archaeologist, inspects all exploration sites for archaeological and

European heritage. The AHM website is also used to research areas of Aboriginal significance.

*Discussion: Mr Flemming asked if Sandy Creek Project has a Development Consent or Mining Lease and what the number was? **ACTION** (DA 86/98 issued 12 April 1999) Mr Flemming also asked if MCC will be mining this area and Mr Knight commented that the project was still under review (feasibility). Mr Downs asked if he could get a copy of plan with all the underground working. **ACTION** (Mailed to Mr Downs on 22 August 2011)*

11. Announcements

Nil

12. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting closed at 1:50 pm.

Date of Next Meeting

6 September 2011

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.

2011 Future Meeting(s):

6 December 2011