



MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

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MINUTES Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee 6 September 2011 At Muswellbrook Coal Company Offices

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr Malcom Ogg	Chairman
Mrs Christine Phelps	Deputy Chairman
Mr Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Mrs Glenda Watts	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 12:15pm by Chairman Ogg.

2. **Apologies**

Mr John Furner (*General Manager - Muswellbrook Coal Company*) and Mr Noel Downs (*Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Lands Council*)

3. **Public Participation**

Nil

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

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 7 June 2011 were confirmed as true and reliable.

Moved – Mrs Christine Phelps

Seconded – Mr Colin Davies

5. **Business arising from the Minutes**

Action items noted and reported as being completed.

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 (*April - June 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 winter months.
- ii. *Rain*: precipitation over the reporting period was above average, especially in June (106.4ml).

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 4g/m^2 .month criteria.
- iv. *TSP (Total Suspended Particulates)*: With the fair amount of rain received over the reporting period, the current year-to-date averages remained below NHMRC criteria of 90ug/m^3 . TSP HVAS units run for 24 hours every 6 days.
- v. *PM₁₀*: During the reporting period (April-June 2011), annual average levels remained below the Long Term OEH Criteria of 30ug/m^3 .

Discussion: Mr Ogg asked what was causing the communication failures shown in dust graphs. Mr Davies and Mr Knight commented that the primary problem was with the rtu units at the monitoring sites as well as telemetry issues. However, most data can be retrieved directly from the monitoring unit when communication problems arise. Overall, readings were good and lower than 12 months ago.

Water

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

Discussion: Mr Flemming asked what the error bars represented in the water quality charts. Mr Davies explained that the bars indicate the minimum and maximum level recorded. Mrs Phelps and Mr Ogg asked if the heavy rains in June caused any issues with water levels in the underground workings storage area. Mr Davies commented that the effect on levels in the underground generally take time to show up, but no change was observed from this particular rain event.

Blasting

- vii. 26 blasts at MCC Open Cut Operations (April-June 2011) which included 3 blast events in No.2 Open Cut. Following the investigative report submission to Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) regarding the non-conformance blast recorded 4 March 2011, OEH responded with an “Official Caution” and recommended that MCC review its blast management procedures. Mr Knight summarised the investigative report and announced a report is available to anyone interested in a copy.

Mr Knight also noted an investigative report had been submitted to MSC regarding a late blast time that occurred on 2 June 2011. Comment from MSC not yet received.

Complaints

- viii. There were 6 complaints recorded during the reporting period (3-Blast, 1-Odour, 1-Noise, 1-Other). Mr Knight summarised each of the complaints recorded between April-June 2011 and stated MCC will have no blasts occurring at different surface levels or blast patterns over 200 holes. Also, there will be no more overburden blasts in the No.2 Open Cut, only into coal.

Discussion: Mrs Watts comment that noise had been bad and she could here operations even with the windows closed in her house and she was concerned what the noise would be like during the summer. Mr Knight announced that MCC was concerned with the recent reports received from the McCullys Gap area regarding noise (Fetherston) and, in response; MCC would be conducting additional noise testing in the area within the week. He also added de-coaling in the No.2 Open Cut should be completed sometime in March 2012. Mr Flemming wanted to know why a noise complaint had come from this particular area. Mr Knight commented that MCC didn't understand why either and that the testing would hopefully identify some of the issues so corrective actions could be taken. This was the first time MCC has received a complaint from Mr Fetherston who lives northeast of the No.2 OC.

One complaint dealt with a speeding incident along the mine access road causing safety concerns with a local resident. Mr Knight reported that MCC addressed this issue by reminding their staff and contractors of the access road speed limit (80kph), installed rumble strips, conducted training, and reduced the amount of driving (operators) hours permitted. Mr Flemming wanted to know who and how the drug/ alcohol testing was conducted on-site. Mr Knight replied that urine analysis is conducted by Frontline.

Rehabilitation

- ix. Current rehabilitation activities include the incorporation of gypsum and organic growth medium (OGM) in No.2 Rehab area that will be followed by pasture and cover crop seeding. OGM is designated by OEH as a waste product with most of the supply going to agriculture. The product does have an odour. Installation of contour drains nearly complete in the No.1 Open Cut rehabilitation area.

Mining Update – Mr Chris Knight

- x. Mine water infusion conducted in identified spon com affected hot areas

Discussion – Mrs Phelps asked if coal seam gas extraction is possible at MCC and Mr Knight explained that it could not be done at MCC because previous underground mining has resulted in very little gas remaining. He also commented that CO₂ was high in the Sandy Creek underground area.

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 submitted to MSC on 23 June 2011

Condition 57 (Aboriginal Cultural Education program)

- Program is currently in a draft format and will be sent to representatives of the Aboriginal community for comment when completed

Sandy Creek Update – Mr Chris Knight

Currently waiting on Surface Disturbance Notice from DTIRIS.
DTIRIS approve exploration activities under A176 (exploration license)

9. Submissions

Nil

10. General Business

Nil

11. Announcements

Tracy May is the new Director of Environmental Services for MSC

12. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting closed at 1:45 pm.

Date of Next Meeting

6 December 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.

2012 Future Meeting(s):

6 March 2012

5 June 2012

4 September 2012

4 December 2012