



MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

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MINUTES

Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee

13 December 2011

At Muswellbrook Coal Company Offices

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr Malcom Ogg	Chairman
Mr Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Mr Noel Downs	Community Representative
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 12:12pm by Chairman Ogg.

2. *Apologies*

Mr John Furner (*General Manager - Muswellbrook Coal Company*) and Mrs Christine Phelps (*Deputy Chairman*)

3. *Public Participation*

Nil

4. *Confirmation of Minutes from the Previous Meeting*

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 6 September 2011 were confirmed as true and reliable.

Moved – Mr Noel Downs

Seconded – Mr Chris Knight

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 (*July-September 2011*) at the mine site.

B. *Report Discussion* –

Weather

- i. *Windroses*: Prevailing winds during the reporting period were generally from the south-east and north-west.
- ii. *Rain*: Precipitation was above average in August and September.

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 $4\text{g}/\text{m}^2$.month criteria.

Discussion: Mr Flemming asked where dust gauge DM26 was located and Mr Davies replied that the monitor was on Bowman's property south-east of operations.

- iv. *TSP (Total Suspended Particulates)*: Levels have been consistent and below EIS predictions. The current year-to-date averages remained below NHMRC criteria of $90\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. TSP HVAS units run for 24 hours every 6 days.
- v. *PM₁₀*: Levels very similar, consistently averaging $12\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. During the reporting period (July-September 2011), annual average levels remained below the Long Term OEH Criteria of $30\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Discussion: Mr. Downs would like to see a chart comparing dust levels against rainfall and wind direction. ACTION

Water

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

Discussion: Mr Flemming asked what was the Final Settling Dam? Mr Knight explained it was previously known as the "Discharge Dam" when the site used to discharge. This collection point remains the last stop for all dams and has a self-activated pump to avoid any potential overflow. Water from this dam is pumped back into the pit. Mrs Watts also asked how often this dam was desilted and Mr Knight stated that the dam was cleaned out whenever required. Mr Knight also noted that MCC uses a great deal of water for controlling spontaneous combustion in affected areas and added that spon com is an exothermic reaction. Mrs Watts asked if the recent rains had any effect on water storage in the underground workings. Mr Knight explained that the workings are self-recharging and the rainfall doesn't have much influence on the storage levels.

Blasting

- vii. There were 31 blasts at MCC Open Cut Operations (July-September 2011) which included 6 blast events in No.2 Open Cut.

Complaints

- viii. There were 6 complaints recorded during the reporting period (3-Noise, 1-Odour, 1-Smoke, 1-Other). Mr Knight summarised each of the complaints recorded between July-September 2011

Discussion: Mrs Watts commented that she could smell sulphur coming from the No.2 Open Cut which she thought was quite unusual. Mrs Watts asked if there had been any activity in the No.2 Open Cut pit recently and if operations would be concluded in this area in March or April as previously thought. Mr Knight commented that No.2 pit operations had currently stopped for a short period and only re-location of equipment had occurred. He also added that the completion of open cut operations in the No.2 pit was still on track to finish in April 2012 but the void would remain for access to the Sandy Creek underground project.

Rehabilitation

- ix. Rehabilitation activities during the reporting period included cover crop seeding at the No.1 Powerline Dump area plus tree seeding in both the No.1 and No.2 rehab areas. Photos of rehabilitated areas were shown in the presentation.

Mining Update – Mr Chris Knight

- x. Strips 18 & 19 are expected to be cleared and mulched early next year (2012).

Sandy Creek Update – Mr Chris Knight

Currently have Surface Disturbance Notice from DTIRIS and 7 exploration holes will be drilled early next year (2012).

9. Submissions

Nil

10. General Business

Mr Knight reported that MCC was currently pumping fly-ash sourced from MacQuarie Generation into the voids of the underground workings to block air flow into the voids and prevent ingress of oxygen, reducing the incidence of spontaneous combustion.

11. Announcements

Tracy May (Director of Environmental Services) has resigned from MSC.

12. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting closed at 1:25 pm.

Date of Next Meeting

6 March 2012

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 interest by committee members.

2012 Future Meeting(s):

5 June 2012

4 September 2012

4 December 2012