



# 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 September 2013

### At Muswellbrook Coal Company Offices

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr Raymond Butchard	Alternate Chairman (MSC)
Mr Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)
Mr John Madden	Community Representative
Mr Chris Knight ( <i>Coal &amp; Environmental Mgr</i> )	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Mr John Furner ( <i>General Manager</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 12:10pm by Alternate Chairman Mr Raymond Butchard.

#### 2. *Apologies*

Mr Malcolm Ogg (*Chairman*), Mr Noel Downs (*Community Representative*) and Mrs Glenda Watts (*Community Representative*)

Acceptance of Apologies

Moved – Mr Chris Knight

Seconded – Mr John Madden

#### 3. *Declaration of Pecuniary or Other Interests*

Nil

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

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 4 June 2013 were confirmed as true and reliable.

Moved – Mr John Madden

Seconded – Mr Chris Knight

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

Nil

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

- Update on West Muswellbrook Project
- Blasting Management Policy Draft – Muswellbrook Shire Council

#### 7. *Correspondence*

Nil

#### 8. *Reports*

- A. *Environmental Monitoring Data & Operations* –Mr Chris Knight presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee. The presentation contained results of the environmental monitoring data (weather, dust, water, blasting), complaints, mine rehabilitation and mining operations for the previous 3 months (*April - June 2013*) at the mine site. Mr Knight pointed out progression of rehabilitation on the July 2013 aerial photo.
- B. *Report Discussion* –

#### Weather

- i. *Windroses*: Prevailing winds during the reporting period were generally from the south-east in April and north-north west to south east in May-June.
- ii. *Rain*: below average rainfall recorded during the reporting period of april-June 2013.

#### Dust

- iii. *Dust Deposition*: average levels at all non-mine owned properties were within the EIS prediction for Years 5-9 of the development. Gauge DM10 located on MCC mine owned land adjacent to mining operations.
- iv. *TSP (Total Suspended Particulates)*: Overall, average levels were below maximum criteria. Elevated dust level events recorded at Site 2 appear to be the result of traffic from loading road base located directly west of the monitor.
- v. *PM<sub>10</sub>*: Levels over the reporting period were below the EIS prediction for Years 5-9 of the project.

**ACTION** – Mr Flemming suggested historical PM<sub>10</sub> data charts should show both daily and annual averages.

#### Water

- vi. Quality of surface and ground water remained relatively consistent during the reporting period. Water stored in the underground requires pump out in order for coal to be mined in these old workings resulting a continuous fluctuation in in water levels. Groundwater EC levels are similar to other aquifers found in the area.

#### Blasting

- vii. There were 31 blast events conducted at MCC Open Cut Operations between 1 April and 30 June 2013. All blasts were conducted in the No.1 Open Cut.  
**ACTION** – 1.) Present blast result charts on 2 separate slides instead of one for easier reading. 2. Investigate the reason for the high (>115 dBA) over pressure result recorded in June at the Nisbet monitor.

#### Complaints

- viii. 7 complaints received during April - June 2013 (1-blast, 2-noise, 3-odour and 1-windscreen damage). Noise complaints came from one individual complainant. Noise surveys conducted in this area but no real impact from MCC was indicated. Odour complaints were in regards to the sulphur-smell from spontaneous combustion.

*Discussion: Mr Butchard asked if any of the odour complaints had come from Scone or Aberdeen. Mr Knight confirmed that no complaints had been received from those areas.*

#### Rehabilitation

- ix. Good progress to date. Tree seeding completed on approximately 13 hectares in the 264 Dump Rehab area.

*Discussion: Mr Flemming asked if any thinning was required in areas of high tree density. Mr Davies explained, that over time, there will be some natural thinning as wattles begin to die out after about ten years so, but to date, no thinning operations have been conducted.*

Mining Update – Mr Chris Knight

- x. All coal recovery completed in the No.2 Open Cut and extraction in the No.1 Open Cut continued in Strips 15-17.

*Discussion: Mr Madden asked why MCC seems to be the only mine shutting down due to dust. Mr Furner commented that specific protocol from other mines would be in place to dictate the need for them to shut down to reduce impact on the community/environment.*

**9. Submissions**

Nil

**10. General Business**

A. Mine Blasting Management Policy Draft – Mr Craig Flemming (MSC)

As an overview, Mr Flemming explained that the draft policy is to assist in identifying cumulative impacts or issues from blasting by mining operations in the area. Council is developing a blast notification section on their website, under the A-Z Services section, to help provide to the community with a convenient “one-stop-shop” location for mine blasting information.

B. West Muswellbrook Project Update – John Furner

While waiting on the Gateway process announcement to be made, the progression of project (aka “Castlerock and “Rosehill”) is currently on hold. Some bio-diversity studies have recently been conducted. Mr Knight presented a slide showing the project lease plan and gave a brief history of the exploration area.

**11. Announcements**

Nil

**12. Next Meeting**

Tuesday, 3 December 2013

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.

**2013 Future Meeting(s):**

*4 March 2014*

*3 June 2014*

*2 September 2014*

*2 December 2014*

**13. Adjourn Meeting**

Meeting closed at 1:10pm.