



# 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

4 June 2013

### At Muswellbrook Coal Company Offices

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr Malcolm Ogg	Chairman (MSC)
Mr Raymond Butchard	Alternate Chairman (MSC)
Mr Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)
Mr John Madden	Community Representative
Mrs Glenda Watts	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 12:11pm by Chairman Mr Malcolm Ogg and welcomed newest committee member and Alternate Chairman, Mr Raymond Butchard.

#### 2. *Apologies*

Mr Noel Downs (*Community Representative*)

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

Nil

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

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 5 March 2013 were confirmed as true and reliable.

Moved – Mr John Madden

Seconded – Mr John Furner

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

- Lewis Seam nomenclature: *Mr Knight reported he has not been able to find any reference in the history books relating to the Lewis name. Mr Madden commented there may have been an Under Manager named Lewis that might be the link.*
- Water Accounting Framework – *Mr Knight announced this topic would be covered in the General Business section of the meeting.*

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

- Water Accounting Framework
- Modification to DA 205/2002

## 7. *Correspondence*

Nil

## 8. *Reports*

- A. *Environmental Monitoring Data & Operations* – Mr Colin Davies and 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 (*January – March 2013*) at the mine site.
- B. *Report Discussion* –

### Weather

- Windroses*: Prevailing winds during the reporting period were generally from the south-east which is typical for the Hunter Valley during the summer months.
- Rain*: above average rainfall recorded during the months of January, February and March, but precipitation in both April and March was significantly below average.

*Discussion: Mr Butchard asked about the type of information that was collected from the weather stations and Mr Davies replied wind direction, wind speed, rain, temperature, barometric pressure, etc.*

### Dust

- Dust Deposition*: average levels at all non-mine owned properties were within the EIS prediction for Year 9 of the development.
- TSP (Total Suspended Particulates)*: Overall, average levels were below maximum criteria.
- PM<sub>10</sub>*: Levels over the reporting period were below the EIS prediction for Year 9 of the project.

*Discussion: Mr Ogg noted there appeared to be less of an issue with dust in the community lately due to a decline in dust related complaints over the last 12 months. Mr Furner added that there remains a real focus on mine dust health concerns in Hunter Valley communities. Mr Davies commented that possibly dust complaints at MCC have declined due to the mining operations moving away from the township and the above average rainfall that has occurred. Mr Knight also added that MCC conducts dust training for employees which includes the review of the recently released EPA Handbook relating to acceptable dust levels in mining operations. This additional awareness to dust impacts among the workforce seems to have affected how dust control measures are now handled more efficiently and effectively on site.*

*Mr Butchard asked if MCC ever receives spon com complaints from Aberdeen. Mr Knight answered “no” but the valley appears to act like a funnel which narrows towards Aberdeen, particularly when winds are from a south-easterly direction.*

*Mrs Watts wanted to know if MCC monitors specifically for sulphur dioxide because the smell was quite noticeable in both the mornings and the nights. Mr Knight explained that MCC will do “sniff” and visual tests when required. He also mentioned MCC has 15 hand-held SO<sub>2</sub> gas monitors for operators/staff to*

*use in the pit when warranted. Mr Furner also added that MCC concentrates very hard on controlling spon com.*

*Comments on the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network chart:*

*Mr Butchard – can't really identify where dust is originating from, too many variables and hard to pinpoint.*

*Mr Flemming – results of particulate testing from the Bowman Park monitor will be able to identify the type of dust particulates that are collected. Graph does show that MCC results are in sync with other monitors in the area.*

*Mr Ogg mentioned that it might be interesting to compare dust trends in this area to those areas without mining.*

**ACTION** – Mr Flemming would like to see historical dust averages (PM<sub>10</sub>) displayed on a chart as well to help identify any possible trends over the years.

### Water

- vi. Quality of surface and ground water remained relatively consistent during the reporting period. The water level in the underground workings is dropping due to coal seams dipping to the north. This water requires pump out in order for coal to be mined in these old workings. Mining operations are moving northerly to the deepest part of the pit at an RL level of 110 metres. Salinity of water around the mine site tends to be quite high on average.

*Discussion: Mr Butchard asked if MCC discharges water and Mr Knight replied "no". Mr Knight also explained MCC has licensed bores that are used to pump stored water in the old underground workings to be used for dust control (water carts) and coal processing. Any excess water on site is pumped into the underground. Mr Furner added that clean water (rain) drains off site naturally due to the topography of the area.*

### Blasting

- vii. There were 24 blast events conducted at MCC Open Cut Operations between 1 January and 31 March 2013. All blasts were conducted in the No.1 Open Cut.

*Discussion: Mr Butchard noted in the minutes of the previous meeting MCC's blast notification process with neighbouring mines. Mr Knight explained this was an informal notification agreement with other mines to try and avoid simultaneous blasting. MCC blasts are usually within the noted time. Mr Knight also added that it was highly unlikely there would be a cumulative impact if firing occurred at the same time due to the proximity of MCC to the other mine site locations.*

### Complaints

- viii. No complaints were recorded during the reporting period (January-March 2013). To date, there have been 6 complaints during April-May (1-blast, 2-noise and 3-odour).

*Discussion: Mr Knight reported that MCC now owns a hand held noise monitor and that OCE's are currently being trained on how to operate the instrument. The recent noise complaints came from a resident over 5 kms from the mine site. After independent testing was conducted at this location, a specific source of the noise has yet to be identified.*

*Odour (spontaneous combustion) complaints all came from the Woodlands Ridge Estate area south of MCC operations. Two of these complaints were reported directly to the EPA and at the time of the calls, there was a strong southerly wind occurring.*

### Rehabilitation

- ix. Good progress to date. Tree seeding to begin next week on the 264 Dump Rehab area.

### Mining Update – Mr Chris Knight

- x. Dumping still occurring in the No.2 Open Cut but all coal extraction is now complete.

## **9. Submissions**

Nil

## **10. General Business**

### A. Water Accounting Framework – Chris Knight

Program developed by the Minerals Council of Australia in conjunction with the Sustainable Minerals Institute of the University of Queensland which allows a site to account for, report and compare site water management practices. Framework will report how much water is re-used and re-cycled through the use of both an Input-Output model and an Operational model. The data will give MCC more information needed to complete the annual water balance and also highlight efficiencies, improvements, etc.

*Objectives:*

1. *Consistent approach for quantifying flows in to and out of reporting entities*
2. *Consistent approach to reporting of “water use” by mineral operations*
  - *Comparison to other users*
  - *Relates to water sharing planning processes*
3. *Consistent approach in quantifying and reporting water “reuse” and “recycling” efficiencies*
4. *A model for the more detailed operational balance*

*Discussion: Mr Flemming asked if there was an example of the Water Accounting Framework to show. Mr Knight explained the program was still in a development stage but MCC could have something, like a spread sheet, to show the committee at the next CCC meeting in September. It is anticipated that there will be a standardised report version for the mining industry.*

### B. Update on Modification to DA 205/2002 – John Furner

The current DA expires September 2015 with mining operations planned until 2018. Modification is to extent the DA expiry date to 2020, no changes in mining footprint, only time. As part of the 2009 approval, the infrastructure relocation should occur sometime in 2015.

The Sandy Creek Project is still under advisement in regards to the economic value of the coal present.

Next open cut project for MCC is West Muswellbrook. This will be a disconnect with the closing of MCC due to the length of the approval process.

*Discussion: In regards to the Sandy Creek Project, Mrs Watts asked if the testing was worthwhile. Mr Furner replied that the issue with this project was the thickness of the coal possibly being too thin.*

*Mr Furner also commented that new projects still continue to get more attention and appeals.*

**11. Announcements**

Nil

**12. Next Meeting**

Tuesday, 3 September 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):**

*3 December 2013*

**13. Adjourn Meeting**

Meeting closed at 2:08pm.