



MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

SITE OFFICE

Administration Centre
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MINUTES

Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee

6 March 2012

At Muswellbrook Coal Company Offices

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mrs Christine Phelps	Deputy Chairman
Mr Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Mr John Furner (<i>General Manager</i>)	Muswellbrook Coal Company
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 Deputy Chairman Mrs Christine Phelps.

2. *Apologies*

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

3. *Public Participation*

Nil

4. *Confirmation of Minutes from the Previous Meeting*

Minutes from the previous meeting held on 13 December 2011 were confirmed as true and reliable.

Moved – Mr Craig Flemming

Seconded – Mrs Christine Phelps

5. *Business arising from the Minutes*

Deferred to General Business

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 (*October-December 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 normal over summer months.
- ii. *Rain*: Precipitation was above average in October and November
Discussion – *Mr Flemming made a suggestion to incorporate MCC's long-term rainfall average into the data chart as well.* **ACTION**

Dust

- iii. *Dust Deposition*: Levels fairly low due to rainfall events during the quarter.
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)*: Spike was noted at Site 1 in December which could have been the result of slashing operations in the area on a HVAS run day.
Discussion: *Mr Flemming commented that it was best not to generate that much dust when conducting maintenance operations. Mr Davies suggested mowing/slashing operations should not occur during HVAS runs days and MCC would notify the Farm Management contractor of these specific dates.*
ACTION
- v. *PM₁₀*: Levels very similar, consistently averaging 13 µg/m³. During the reporting period (October-December 2011), annual average levels remained below the Long Term OEH Criteria of 30ug/m³.

Water

- vi. Quality of surface and ground water very stable.
Discussion: *Mrs Phelps asked where the ground water is pumped to. Mr Knight explained the water from the underground workings is pumped out as coal is mined and then pumped back to the open cut void, used for dust suppression and for washing coal at the CHPP.*

Blasting

- vii. There were 23 blasts at MCC Open Cut Operations (October-December 2011) which included 5 blast events in No.2 Open Cut. No maximum exceedences of overpressure or ground vibration were recorded. One blast recorded an overpressures of 116.2 dBA measured at the Nisbet monitor off Sandy Creek Road but the compliance level of 5% of blasts may be between 115 -120dB(L) is not currently being exceeded.

Complaints

- viii. There were 3 complaints recorded during the reporting period (2-Noise, 1-Blast). Mr Knight summarised each of the complaints recorded between October-December 2011
Discussion: *Mr Knight commented that in response to complaints received by Mr Fetherston (Sandy Creek Road) during the previous reporting period, noise testing has been conducted at the complainant's property and showed MCC to be within compliance levels.*

Rehabilitation

- ix. Rehabilitation activities included general weed control around topsoil stockpiles. Trees beginning to emerge in the latest planted rehab areas of No.1 and No.2 open cut. No planting or land preparation was conducted due to wet ground conditions.

Mining Update – Mr Chris Knight

- x. Approximately 2 more months left in the No.2 open cut before de-coaled down to floor level.

Mr Knight reported that the wet flyash was not successful but MCC is still trialling dry flyash to assist in sealing up hot areas in the underground workings. Mr Furner added that underground roadways were the areas being primarily targeted.

*Discussion: Mr Flemming asked if the holes could be bricked-up and Mr Furner explained that these areas would be mined through in the future anyway so there was no need. Mr Knight added that MCC has spent over \$1million so far on the trial. Mr Flemming also wanted to know if the material could hold back water and how old were the underground workings. Mr Knight replied that ash could not hold back water and the workings (St. Heliers) date back to 1924-1960. A suggestion was made, from the committee, to present a schematic or plan to show where and how the trial is being done at the next CCC meeting (June 2012). **ACTION***

9. Submissions

Nil

10. General Business

A Dust vs Wind direction vs Rain chart was presented to the committee.

*Discussion: Mr Flemming reported that the State government Land Use Guidelines had been released today and the UHAQMN (Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network) report had been released on 24 February. Both could be viewed on-line. He also added that he'd like to see MCC present more graphical representation of dust levels like those used in the report. A suggestion was made to include a chart comparing MCC PM₁₀ levels to those reported by the UHAQMN. **ACTION***

11. Announcements

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

12. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting closed at 1:35 pm.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 5 June 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):

4 September 2012

4 December 2012