



MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

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MINUTES

Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee 9 December 2013

At Muswellbrook Coal Company Offices

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr Malcom Ogg	Chairman (MSC)
Mr Raymond Butchard	Alternate Chairman (MSC)
Mr Craig Flemming	Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC)
Mr John Madden	Community Representative
Mr Noel Down	Community Representative
Mr Chris Knight (<i>Coal & 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*

Mrs Glenda Watts (*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 3 December 2013 were confirmed as true and reliable.

Moved – Mr Raymond Butchard

Seconded – Mr John Madden

5. *Business arising from the Minutes*

- Mine Blasting Policy – procedure has been implemented as per Mr Craig Flemming
- Elevated overpressure recorded for a blast in June 2013 was due to a shallow (3 metres) hole design, as explained by Mr Chris Knight
- Blast graphs in presentation have been enlarged for better viewing as per Ms Dennen-King

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 Colin Davies 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 (*July-September 2013*) at the mine site. Mr Knight pointed out progression of mining operations on the July 2013 aerial photo and reported that MCC has upgraded to a real time 3G communication system to monitor both weather and dust information via an internet site.

B. *Report Discussion* –

Weather

- i. *Windroses*: Prevailing winds during the reporting period were generally from the north-west with south-easterlies expected during the summer months.
- ii. *Rain*: below average rainfall recorded during the reporting period of July-September 2013.

Discussion: Mr Butchard asked if MCC had any overflow/runoff issues with heavy rain events. Mr. Knight explained the Final Settling Dam is equipped with an automatic pump that will activate when specific water levels are reached to avoid any overflow issues. Water is pumped back into the pit.

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 is located on MCC mine owned land adjacent to mining operations. DM2, also on mine owned land, is due east of Site 2 where dust issues have been a problem with road work activities (loading or road base) in the vicinity.
- 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 loading road base into tipper trucks directly west of the monitor.
- v. *PM₁₀*: Levels over the reporting period were below the EIS prediction for Years 5-9 of the project.

ACTION – Mr Flemming suggested historical PM₁₀ data charts are in a different format for clarity.

Water

- vi. Quality of surface and ground water remained relatively consistent during the reporting period. Groundwater EC levels are similar to other aquifers found in the area.

Blasting

- vii. There were 29 blast events conducted at MCC Open Cut Operations between 1 July and 30 September 2013. All blasts were conducted in the No.1 Open Cut.

Complaints

- viii. 9 complaints were received during July-September 2013 (2-blast, 3-dust and 4-odour/smoke). Mr Knight commented that the majority of the complaints were in response to the dust, smoke and odour caused from spontaneous combustion

in the old underground workings. Mr Knight also displayed a couple of photos showing the progress of control measures being taken by pit operations in the No.1 Open Cut to control the fires from spon com that was encountered while mining through the old underground workings. Control measures included the use of water sprays, infusion and clay seals to prevent burning into adjacent strips and avoid an event like the one in 2006 with the red rock knoll.

Rehabilitation

- ix. Very dry conditions have knocked back seedling developing, particularly on the 264 Dump rehab. Mr Knight commented that MCC will now place habitat trees in the rehab after tree establishment to avoid attracting rabbits that could feed on developing tree seedlings.

Mining Update – Mr Chris Knight

- x. Problems with highwall stability next to the Workshop so direction of mining operations changed during the reporting period.
- xi. Dust Stop program displaying photos was presented to MCC personnel.
- xii. No voluntary shut downs occurred for noise during the reporting period, but there had been quite a few lost hours relating to wind.
ACTION – add total quarterly shut down hours for wind to presentation.
- xiii. Initial baseline testing for Pollution Reduction Program was conducted during the reporting period. Results indicated that the worst case efficiency was 88%, but 96% control was normal. No dust suppressants were used. Mr Furner added that keeping the water trucks on short circuits was the most efficient method for dust control. Mr Knight also commented that water needed to be used anyway in order to reduce the amount of water stored on site or underground.

9. Submissions

Nil

10. General Business

A. Daily 48-hour Dust Risk Forecast Report – Chris Knight

MCC distributing a daily risk report to all departments for management purposes. The report is compiled by utilising information from the daily SKM forecast report, an ACARP funded project.

The link to the SKM website is:

<http://huntervalleyenv.globalskm.com/weather.html>

Discussion: Mr Flemming asked how this report differed from that developed by the Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue. Mr Furner and Mr Knight both commented that it was a different model and that MCC wanted to be proactive since they could not act collaboratively with the other mines due to differing trigger levels.

B. New Real Time Dust and Weather Monitoring System – Chris Knight

During November, MCC installed a new communication system for monitoring real time dust and weather data using 3G technology. System has proven to be more reliable than the previous Citect set-up.

C. West Muswellbrook Project Update – John Furner

This project was on-hold until the Gateway process has been resolved. Now that this has happened, MCC will be able to move forward and push through the process and aim for approval. The project has also been held up for 2 years

due to the Strategic Land Use Policy. MCC expects the approval to be challenged. Mr Furner commented that the Sandy Creek Project is currently still on-hold and added that 1/3 of the project lies within the Upper Hunter Shire.

11. Announcements

Nil

12. Next Meeting

Tuesday, 4 March 2014

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.

2014 Future Meeting(s):

3 June 2014

2 September 2014

2 December 2014

13. Adjourn Meeting

Meeting closed at 1:30pm.