

MT ARTHUR COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting (13)

Location: Mt Arthur Coal Boardroom

Date: Thursday 27 January 2011

Present: Jennifer Lecky (JL) Deputy Chairperson, Craig Flemming (CF) Muswellbrook Shire Council, Raymond Webb (RW), Graham Guest (GG), Steve Perkins (SP) Mt Arthur Coal, Scott Mitchell (SM) Mt Arthur Coal, Rebecca Smith (RS) Mt Arthur Coal, Donna McLaughlin (DM) Mt Arthur Coal, Shelley Masterson (SM) Mt Arthur Coal, Julie McNaughton (JM) Mt Arthur Coal

Apologies: Michael White (MW) Mt Arthur Coal, Rob Hayes (RH) Mt Arthur Coal, Martin Rush (MR) Chairperson and John Bancroft (JB) Resident.

Meeting Commenced: 4.10pm

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Jennifer Lecky welcomed everyone to the Mt Arthur Coal Community Consultative Committee March 2011 meeting and apologies were received.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No pecuniary interests were declared.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Moved by RW

Seconded by GG

4. HOUSEKEEPING AND SAFETY

RS provided information on general housekeeping and safety at Mt Arthur Coal, this included:

- Entry/Exit
- Emergency Procedure
- Muster Area
- Amenities
- Tea/Coffee

5. ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Action Item 1 - Clearly display on all graphs presented in the CCC agenda if a depositional dust gauge is used for management purposes only and not for compliance purposes.

This was completed by RS.

Action Item 2 – Provide CF with certificates of analysis for contaminated depositional dust results for November and December 2010.

This was completed by RS. CF confirmed that these had been received.

MT ARTHUR COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

CF raised concerns about the practice of the person carrying out the depositional dust gauge collection noting contamination on field sheets as this may influence laboratory results.

JM suggested inviting a representative from the laboratory to a CCC meeting to explain the process for obtaining depositional dust results (Action Item 1).

6. OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS TO DATE

JM informed the CCC that operations were continuing with no major changes since last meeting. There are no new mining areas and no new equipment

7. REVIEW OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

The CCC was presented with draft copies of environmental management plans other supporting programs and documents. JM presented an overview of the plans identifying any changes to current practices. The documents presented were:

- Draft management plans:
 - Blast Management Plan
 - Air Quality Management Plan
 - European Heritage Management Plan
 - Site Water Management Plan
 - Noise Management Plan
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- Draft monitoring programs and other documents:
 - Blast Monitoring Program
 - Noise Monitoring Program
 - Air Quality Monitoring Program
 - Surface Water Monitoring Plan
 - Visual Impact Report
 - Site Water Balance
 - Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
 - Groundwater Monitoring Program
 - Surface and Groundwater Response Plan

CF requested confirmation that section 138 permits are in place for road closures (Action Item 2).

CF enquired whether invertebrates were included in assessment for stream and groundwater health. JM informed the CCC that invertebrates were not included in this assessment and that this was explicitly stated in the draft management plan.

CF enquired about the possible impacts that the Mt Arthur Coal operations could have on streams. SM informed the CCC that changes could predominantly arise from changes in catchment size and sediment in run-off.

CF asked where the zone of acquisition was defined. JM informed the CCC that this zone was defined in the Open Cut Consolidation Project Approval.

MT ARTHUR COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

8. MONITORING SYSTEMS

RS presented an overview of the Mt Arthur Coal monitoring results since the last meeting. Monitoring results were delivered to the CCC members prior to the meeting and were referred to during the course of the presentation.

Blasting

- All licensed blast monitoring stations recorded results below development consent criteria for the January to February 2011 monitoring period except for a blast on 17 February 2011 which recorded a blast vibration of 11.55mm/s at the Edinglassie monitor (on mine-owned land). A detailed investigation was undertaken for this blast. (NOTE: Since the CCC meeting it has been found that this reading was the result of a faulty monitor. Results taken from a nearby monitor indicate no exceedance. This will be discussed at the next CCC Meeting);
- There were 2 road closures in the January – February period;
- 25 blasts in January – February 2011;
- 29 blasts were delayed due to adverse weather conditions.

HVAS

- There were three elevated results in the January to February 2011 monitoring period;
- Analysis of wind conditions and downwind HVAS results determined the Mt Arthur Coal contribution to be below consent criteria for each of these elevated results.
- All HVAS monitoring locations currently have annual averages below relevant Development Consent criteria.

Depositional Dust

- There were no depositional dust gauge results recorded in the January – February 2011 monitoring period that were above development consent conditions with the exception of DD01, DD02, DD03 and DD16 in January and DD01, DD03, DD05, DD13, DD19 and DD20 in February;
- Analysis of the predominant wind direction in January determined that due to the location of DD01, DD02 and DD03 Mt Arthur Coal's contribution was below consent criteria;
- Analysis of the predominant wind direction in February determined that due to the location of DD01, DD03, DD19 and DD20 Mt Arthur Coal's contribution was below consent criteria;
- Using DD05 as the upwind monitor, Mt Arthur Coal's contribution to the elevated result at DD13 was calculated by subtracting the DD05 result from the DD13 result for this period. The DD13 result was therefore determined to be below consent criteria.
- DD05 and DD16 are on Mt Arthur Coal owned land and are only used for management purposes;
- All current rolling annual averages are below relevant development consent criteria, with the exception of DD02 and DD03. The predominant wind direction for each month that has recorded elevated results at these gauges has shown that these gauges were upwind of Mt Arthur Coals operation, therefore other activities have impacted these elevated results;
- Contaminated Results for the period were at:
 - DD06 January (excessive bird droppings)
 - DD02 February (excessive bird droppings)
 - DD08 February (excessive insects and bird droppings)

MT ARTHUR COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- DD16 February (excessive insects and vegetation)

Surface Water

- There are no significant variations in pH or EC in the sampling period.

9. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

SM presented an overview of the Mt Arthur Coal community support since the last meeting.

Sponsorship Events

- Upper Hunter Education Fund
 - Scholarship Programs for tertiary education
- Muswellbrook High School
 - Construction of an Agricultural Area
- Wildlife Aid
- Awareness Programs and operational costs
- Muswellbrook Women's and Children's Refuge
 - Home Starter Packages

Community Participation

- Employees volunteered their time at BBQ's and entry points for the Newcastle Knights Trial Game held 26 February
- Employees volunteered at Clean Up Australia Day on 6 March across Denman, Muswellbrook and Singleton.

Community Contributions

- 30% Community Development
- 16% Education and Training
- 16% Health
- 5% Art/Culture
- 20% Sport/Recreation
- 13% Environment

Sustainable Communities Project (SCP)

- Currently working on getting SCP material into a format to share with the wider community.
- Working with some community organisations with the view of forming partnerships to undertake projects that may achieve some objectives of the Sustainable Communities Project.

CF enquired whether areas nominated by the community would be given priority. SM confirmed that priority would be given to cumulative mining impacts and be based on both qualitative and quantitative research. Consideration would also be given to the capacity of community groups to manage projects in the short term.

Complaints

- 5 Dust
- 4 Vibration

MT ARTHUR COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

- 2 Noise
- Four complaints were received in January from the Denman Rd area. One of these complaints was related to operational dust on January 31. The other three other complaints received were all related to blast vibration from blasts in Windmill Pit. Two of these complaints were received on January 31 and one was received January 17.
- Seven complaints were received in February. Four of these were from the Denman Rd area, of which three related to high dust levels on the evening of February 2 when gusty winds were prevalent. The remaining complaint from Denman Rd was related to blast vibration from a blast in Windmill Pit on February 10. One complaint was also received from Roxburgh Rd on February 4 relating to dust from a blast. Two complaints were also received from Antiene Rd regarding train noise.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

There was agreement to include a site tour in the May CCC Meeting. Areas that the CCC suggested to view were:

- dispatch,
- rehabilitation areas,
- visual bund,
- general operations.

There was also agreement that DoP compliance officers would be invited to the May CCC Meeting to discuss their role (Action Item 3).

An offer was made to send an electronic version of the CCC agenda to CCC members in addition to the posted version. JL and CF (on behalf of Muswellbrook Shire Council) requested this (Action Item 4).

CF requested an electronic version of the rehabilitation plan (Action Item 5).

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, May 25th 2011 (3:00pm start to accommodate site tour).

Meeting Closed: 6:00pm

ACTION ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTIONED BY
1	Invite a representative from the laboratory to the July CCC meeting to explain the process for obtaining depositional dust results.	RS
2	Confirm that 138 permits are in place for road closures	JM
3	Invite DoP Compliance Officers to the next CCC Meeting	RS
4	Establish process to send an electronic version of the CCC agenda to JL and Muswellbrook Shire Council	RS
5	Send electronic version of the rehabilitation plan to CF	SM