

MT ARTHUR COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting (11)

Location: Mt Arthur Coal Boardroom
Date: Wednesday 24 November 2010
Present: Jennifer Lecky (JL) Deputy Chairperson, Craig Flemming (CF) Muswellbrook Shire Council, Raymond Webb (RW) Resident, Julie McNaughton (JM) Mt Arthur Coal, Steve Perkins (SP) Mt Arthur Coal, Scott Mitchell (SM) Mt Arthur Coal, Rebecca Smith (RS) Mt Arthur Coal, Rob Hayes (RH) Mt Arthur Coal

Meeting Commenced: 4.10pm

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Jennifer Lecky welcomed everyone to the Mt Arthur Coal Community Consultative Committee November 2010 meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Martin Rush (MR) Chairperson, Bruce McPherson (BM) Resident, John Bancroft (JB) Resident, Michael White (MW) Mt Arthur Coal and Shelley Masterson (SM) Mt Arthur Coal.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No pecuniary interests were declared.

3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Moved by JL.

Seconded by CF.

4. HOUSEKEEPING AND SAFETY

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

- Entry/Exit
- Voice activated alarm
- Muster Area
- Amenities
- Tea/Coffee
- Emergency Procedure

5. OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS TO DATE

SP reviewed Environment and Community Staff Changes:

- Morgana Gidley-Baird has left the Mt Arthur Coal Environment and Community team to pursue an Environmental Superintendent role at BHP Billiton's Iron Ore Mine in Newman, W.A.

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- Rebecca Smith has moved into the Mt Arthur Coal Environment and Community team as an Environmental Coordinator. Rebecca's previous role was as a HSEC Systems Coordinator with the Mt Arthur Coal Health, Safety and Risk team.

RH presented information on the following:

- Mt Arthur Coal operations have reached a point of stability and consolidation which should continue until July 2011 with the exception of some new equipment.
- MAC20 project has completed and no new equipment is currently being commissioned.
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- Mining will continue close to the Denman Rd with approximately one road closure a week expected over the next 2 months.
- In line with the new consolidation project approval condition the height of the visual bund has started to increase. The visual bund is now at 250 RL and will increase to 270 by July 2011. In addition other dumps will increase over time.
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- Blasting mitigation measures at Mt Arthur Coal to reduce the vibration from blasts includes dividing one shot into staged sections with the use of electronic detonators. A trial shot using this technique on October 14th (video shown) demonstrated a ten-fold reduction in vibration at Edinglassie than expected using existing blast methods.
- Mt Arthur Coal is now running at 20 million tonne / year capacity.
- Ongoing recruitment for replacement positions will continue.

Concern was raised that longer blasts, as a result of the technique trialled, may lead to more complaints. There was general agreement that an education element on actual and perceived affects from blasts would be useful.

The suggestion was put forward that access to a better quality map of Mt Arthur Coal would be useful for future CCC meetings (Action Item 1).

6. ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- Sponsorship application was sent to GG.
- Agreement to postpone the discussion of queries about data in the AEMR until next meeting
- JM presented information on the following:

Approval for the Consolidation Project facilitates the following:

- Consolidation of Mt Arthur Coal's four open cut development consents (over 790 conditions) into one contemporary approval;
- Extending the mine footprint to uncover additional coal reserves within the current Mining Lease Boundary;
- Increasing the approved open cut production levels by 8 Million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) to 32 Mtpa Run of Mine (ROM) coal;
- Relocating and upgrading a section of Edderton Road (proposed for around 2019);

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- Upgrading the existing Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP) to enable increased recovery of coal and reduce water demand;
- Increasing the approved rail haulage capacity and constructing a second rail load out facility, and other associated infrastructure;
- Modifying existing infrastructure (such as workshop and bathhouse) and construction of new infrastructure (such as a ROM coal hopper and coal stockpiles); and
- The project will result in additional local jobs and business opportunities. At its peak, the total operational workforce at Mt Arthur Coal may now reach 2,600 people.

Plans and Strategies

- Management plans required to be developed or updated as a result of Mt Arthur Coal Consolidation Project Approval include:
 - Noise Management Plan;
 - Blast Management Plan;
 - Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan;
 - Site Water Management Plan;
 - Biodiversity Management Plan;
 - Rehabilitation Management Plan;
 - Heritage Management Plan ;
- Strategies required to be developed or updated as a result of MAC Consolidation Project Approval include:
 - Biodiversity Offset Strategy; and
 - Rehabilitation Strategy.

Key Changes to Production

- Increased mine production from the Mt Arthur Coal Complex by 8 Mtpa to 36 Mtpa ROM coal;
- 32 Mtpa ROM coal from the open cut;
- Increase open cut or underground production by up to 4 Mtpa, to a maximum of 36 Mtpa,.

Key Changes to Overburden Emplacement

- Maximum overburden height of RL 360m AHD.
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Key Changes to Coal Processing

- The CHPP will be upgraded to be capable of processing up to 36 Mtpa of ROM coal.

Key Changes to Product Coal Transport

- Transport up to 27 Mtpa product coal via the Rail Loadout Facility on the existing rail loop;
- Maximum of 24 rail movements per day (no change from existing approval);
- Use of existing overland conveyor to Macquarie Generation's Bayswater Power Station (no change from existing approval).

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Noise

- Real-time monitoring and meteorological forecasting will be assessed with reference to operations;
- Investigate ways to reduce the operational, low frequency, rail and road traffic noise; and
- Take reasonable measures to ensure traffic on Denman Road and Thomas Mitchell Drive does not exceed established day and night thresholds.

Blasting

- Blasting shall only be carried out between the hours of 9 am and 5 pm Monday to Saturday;
- Maximum blast frequency includes:
 - 2 blasts per day;
 - 12 blasts per week;
 - 4 blasts per week with a maximum instantaneous charge of greater than 1,500 kg averaged over 12 month period, for all operations at Mt Arthur Mine Complex; and
 - NOTE – these restraints do not apply to blasts which generate ground vibration of 0.5 mm/s or less at any residence on privately-owned land;

Air Quality

- Utilise best practice air quality management by minimising offsite odour, fume and dust emissions;
- Monitoring data including a new TEOM monitoring station and visual assessment of air quality will be used to ensure compliance;
- A road sealant or dust suppressant product will be applied on active coal and overburden haul roads and / or other technologies will be utilised.

Water

- A census of privately owned groundwater bores will be undertaken to ascertain current usage and provide baseline data;
- Sufficient water for all stages of the project must be available.

Management of Cumulative Impacts

- In conjunction with Drayton and Bengalla mines Mt Arthur Coal will use its best endeavours to minimise cumulative impacts.

7. MONITORING SYSTEMS

SP 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

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- All licensed blast monitoring stations recorded results below Development Consent criteria for September to October 2010 monitoring period;
- There were 4 road closures in the September – October period;
- 23 Blasts in September – October 2010;
- 19 blasts were delayed due to adverse weather conditions.

HVAS

- There were no elevated results in the September to October 2010 monitoring period;
- 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 September – October 2010 monitoring period that were above development consent conditions with the exception of DD03 and DD20 in September and DD02, DD03, DD17 and DD19 in October;
- Analysis of the predominant wind direction in September determined that due to the location of DD03 and DD20 Mt Arthur Coal's contribution was below consent criteria;
- Analysis of the predominant wind direction in October determined that due to the location of DD02, DD03 and DD19 Mt Arthur Coal's contribution was below consent criteria;
- DD17 is on Mt Arthur Coal owned land and is only used for management purposes;
- All current rolling annual averages are below relevant development consent criteria, with the exception of DD02, DD03 and DD16;
- DD02, DD03 and DD16 have not been significantly impacted by Mt Arthur Coal's operation. The predominant wind direction for each month that has recorded elevated results 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;
 - DD02 September (excessive bird droppings)
 - DD09 October (excessive bird droppings and vegetation)
 - DD12 September (excessive bird droppings)
 - DD16 October (excessive bird droppings and vegetation)
 - DD18 October (excessive insects and bird droppings)
- Determination of contamination is by a NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) accredited Laboratory. NATA is Australia's national laboratory accreditation authority.

Surface Water

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

A suggestion was put forward that the content of slides presented in the meeting for monitoring systems, summarising the data, would be a useful addition to the agenda (Action Item 3)

8. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Sponsorship Events

- St Joseph's High School
 - Outward Bound Program

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- Denman Amateur Swimming Club
 - Sun Smart Project
- Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre
 - National Carers Week
- Christian Social Centre
 - Family Fun Day
- St Alban's Ministry Centre
 - Christmas Food Relief

Community Participation

- Presentation delivered to Scone Public School's Environment Team (students in grades 3 to 6), who are learning about different types of energy.

Site Tour

- Council staff from Muswellbrook Shire Council participated in a site tour on 19 November.

Community Contributions

- 14% Community Development
- 13% Education and Training
- 4% Health
- 1% Art/Culture
- 55% Sport/Recreation
- 13% Environment

- Next steps:
 - Develop a five-year plan for investment through Community Development Fund;
 - Share outcomes with miners, council other community groups for stronger decision making.

Complaints

- 5 Dust
- 7 Vibration
- 1 Noise
- 2 Lighting

- Four operational dust complaints (three from Roxburgh Rd, plus one from Denman Rd).
- Eight blast complaints (one dust-related & seven vibration-related, all from blasts in Windmill Pit and all from Denman Rd, Racecourse Rd and Roxburgh Rd).
- Two lighting complaints. One from Kayuga Rd on the 1st October and another from Racecourse Rd on the 14th October relating to light from Visual Dump 1.
- One noise complaint on October 12th from Antiene Rd. Probably not attributable to Mt Arthur Coal.

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9. GENERAL BUSINESS

Department of Planning compliance officers recently visited Mt Arthur Coal and inquired about attending the CCC. All agreed that the compliance officers would be welcome to attend.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, January 27th 2011. This was agreed upon due to a public holiday falling on the fourth Wednesday of the month in January.

Meeting Closed: 6:40pm

ACTION ITEM NO.	ITEM	ACTIONED BY
1	Arrange map of Mt Arthur Coal for next CCC meeting	SM
2	Everyone to bring AEMR to next CCC meeting to discuss any queries in data	All
3	Include notes from Monitoring System slides in the agenda for the next CCC meeting.	RS