



# **Werris Creek Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee**

## **Fourth Meeting of the Committee**

**Tony Caine Room, Quirindi RSL Club**

**2.00pm 14th June 2007**

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Attendance**

Ron Short, (Chairman); Tony Ryan, (Community Representative); Robert Hunt, Bob Stewart, (LPSC); Paul Hensley, (Manager Mining Engineering/MME); Rob Snook & Gordon Atkinson (WCC).

### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Chairman Ron Short welcomed all in attendance and as an introduction provided a summary of the previous meetings minutes (August 2006) noting issues relating to difficulties in maintaining/attracting community representatives to the CCC despite advertising and the proposal to invite DPI Environmental Officer, Ms Monique Meyer to present the Department's overview of the WCC Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR). No matters were raised under general business at the 22 August 2006 meeting.

### **3. Matters Arising**

3.1 In regard to the provision of monthly environmental monitoring data Tony Ryan raised his concerns that despite this matter being discussed at the previous meeting data had since been supplied on an irregular basis (last results covering Oct, Nov and Dec06, Jan07) in and no further results until today's meeting (Feb and March07).

3.2 Recent changes in site management (until recently advised) had contributed to concerns in ensuring that the level of community contact previously available was to be maintained.

Discussion regarding recent management changes (Refer Item 6) and the content/detail of information provided in monitoring data together with the frequency of providing such information to CCC members resulted in the following proposal.

***An overview, summarising WCC's environmental monitoring data to be provided quarterly explaining any exceedances and actions taken in reporting/addressing the particular issue. Details of any complaints received including description, date and actions taken to be included.***

Moved R Short. Seconded T. Ryan

***In addition WCC agreed to supply an updated set of Site contact details. Refer to attached list***

Minutes of Previous Meeting held 22 August 2006 were accepted.

Moved R Stewart. Seconded T. Ryan

Following initial introductions of new attendees to the CCC, Chairman Ron Short requested each new attendee formally introduce themselves, in particular the WCC and Mining Contractor representatives. (Refer to Item 6).

#### **4. Review of Consultative Committee Membership**

This issue was previously discussed at last CCC meeting on 22 August 2006 as indicated at Item 2. Rob Hunt and Bob Stewart indicated that further attempts had been made to advertise for Community Representatives for the CCC. Some initial interest had been shown by several people but this had to date failed to result in nominations.

***Bob Stewart suggested that LPSC would again advertise for Community Representatives and give Chairman, Ron Short's contact details for interested persons to contact Ron and discuss details/requirements of membership. In addition a short, "one page" application form would be used to enable interested persons to easily provide application details.***

***Currently three (3), Community Representatives being Ron Short, Tony Ryan and Chris Holley are members of the CCC. At least two (2) additional representatives are required.***

Moved R Short that the above strategy is adopted and that LPSC would advertise as outlined. Seconded B Stewart.

#### **5. Update on monitoring results to March 2007**

Monitoring results for February 2007 and March 2007 tabled.  
Refer to Item 3 regarding environmental monitoring results.

#### **6. Re-structuring of Operations at WCC**

Gordon Atkinson introduced himself as a local Tamworth based contract mining engineer supplying mine engineering and environmental planning services to WCC. Presently on site approximately 3 days per week. Responsibilities include mine development/rehabilitation, site environmental monitoring, compliance and reporting in accordance with statutory requirements eg DA, mining lease and EPA Licence etc. Currently assisting with completion of the second AEMR for the 12 month period ending 31 March 2007.

Paul Hensley introduced himself as the new Statutory Mine Manager (now Manager of Mining Engineering) for Marshalls Mining and Earthmoving, the new mining contractor or mine Operator Paul provided an outline of the new Coal Mining Act 2002 and Regulation 2006 that has resulted in changes to site management structure particularly in regard to OH&S. Mr Leslie Latcham is the Project Manger for MME. (refer attached site contact details). Paul extended an invitation to CCC members to contact the MME office to arrange site visits at a mutually agreeable time.

Rob Snook introduced himself as WCC Site Manager and the day to day WCC contact, in particular regarding environmental matters. Rob outlined changes regarding site rehabilitation (topsoiling and revegetation) activities that are now undertaken by WCC following the replacement of Roche Mining by MME as at 5 March 2007. Currently Rob is preparing the next 12 month program to enable WCC to progress site rehabilitation. Details to be included in the next AEMR.

## 7. Frequency of Committee Meetings

Current requirement is to meet at least 4 times a year, or as determined by the Director-General.

***The next meeting to be planned to coincide with release of the second AEMR for the period ending 31 March 2007 and in conjunction with an invitation to DPI Environmental Officer, Ms Monique Meyer to present the Department's overview of the AEMR as referenced in Item 2.***

***In addition it was agreed to also extend an invitation to Department of Planning's, Colin Phillips.***

***Gordon Atkinson (WCC) to advise of next meeting date.***

## 8. General Business

8.1 Tony Ryan re-iterated the importance of the CCC's ongoing role, the need for adequate information on a timely basis and clear lines of communication as outlined under Item 3.

***WCC to review performance of the WCC "hot line" including message/complaint recordings and provide revised contact list. (refer to attached)***

8.2 Ron Short and Bob Stewart raised the issue of complaints to date. In general few had been brought to their attention.

- An issue of dust from coal trains had been raised in November 2006 and had subsequently been addressed by the introduction of water sprays at coal train loading facility
- Recent issue of lack of CCC meetings had been addressed by convening this meeting
- In future details of any complaints to be provided in quarterly monitoring data and actions taken as described under Item 3.

8.3 Paul Hensley advised that a site (bus) tour had been arranged for members of the Werris Creek Bowling Club for the weekend 17/18th June 2007.

8.4 Rob Hunt raised the issue regarding a recent incident of explosives not detonating at the WCC mine. Paul Hensley supplied details of the incident and confirmed that a full investigation had been undertaken in accordance with DPI – Mineral Resources Safety Inspectorate. The blast area is secure and actions to safely recover the remaining explosive were underway in accordance with DPI approved procedures.

8.5 Bob Stewart informed members that a new set of "Guidelines for CCC" were due for release and would be made available.

Also suggested for consideration by WCC was the use or contribution to a Community Newsletter to assist with the distribution of current and correct information regarding WCC's current and future operations.

8.6 Gordon Atkinson provided an update regarding WCC's approach to alternate Biodiversity Offset Strategies including the proposed exchange of part of the current BOS with an alternate (improved) offset involving land within the "Eurunderee" property. General support for addressing biodiversity issues at a local level where possible.

Chairman Ron Short thanked all for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 3.30pm

## 9. Next Meeting

Refer to Item 7.

**Copy to:**

Ron Short            Chairman  
Tony Ryan           Local Community Representative  
Chris Holley        Local Community Representative

Colin Phillips      DoP

Bob Stewart        LPSC  
Rob Hunt            LPSC

Paul Hensley       MME

Rob Snook          WCC  
Gordon Atkinson   WCC

**Attachment:** WCC and MME Mine Contacts List