

Werris Creek Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

Sixth Meeting of the Committee

Tony Caine Room, Quirindi RSL Club

10.00am 13th December 2007

MINUTES

- 1. Record of Attendance** Ron Short (Chairman); Tony Ryan (Community Representative); Chris Holley (Community Representative); Noel Taylor (Community Representative 67 462276); Jill Coleman (Community Representative 67 687352); Lindsay Bridge (Community Representative 67 462210); Casper Dieben (General Manager WCC); Chris Burgess (Area Manager Whitehaven Group); Lee McDonagh & Gordon Atkinson (WCC).

Apologies Des George, (Manager Mining Engineering/MME); Bob Stewart, (Director Environmental & Community Services, LPSC)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Chairman Ron Short chaired the meeting and welcomed all in attendance in particular the new members of the CCC.

Minutes of the previous meeting 28th August 2007 were accepted, Moved Tony Ryan, Seconded Gordon Atkinson.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 The three new members of the CCC were welcomed.
- 3.2 Tony Ryan received his copy of AEMR.
- 3.3 Ron Short suggested that the new members review WCC AEMR's to get a feel for the scope of the WCC development and management obligations of the DA Consent and all the obligations that WCC are committed to.
- 3.4 Each person present at the meeting gave a brief introduction.

4. Welcome to new members

- 4.1 Ron Short welcomed new members again and explained that WCC had a fairly smooth history of environmental issues to date. The response he felt from WCC was good considering the obligations that WCC had to contend with. Ron Short asked the committee to be open and frank with WCC forum and to represent the communities interests.
- 4.2 Ron Short suggested that at each meeting a dot point of matters which each member would like to discuss should be presented prior to or early in the meeting. These points can then be discussed in General Business. Dot points for this meeting:
 - Tony Ryan – Company Structure
 - Noel Taylor – Concern re water discharge event – where the water came from.
 - Lindsay Bridge – Groundwater effects.

5. New Guidelines for Establishing and Operating CCC's for Mining Projects –June 2007

Ron Short advised members to read CCC guidelines and for WCC to distribute guidelines to any members who did not receive them.

Note: Item to be included for next meetings Agenda – CCC Guideline's.

6. Werris Creek Coal Pty Ltd (WCC) – Management and Operations update

Following Whitehaven Coal Limited's complete acquisition of Werris Creek Coal Pty Ltd, Casper Dieben explained the changes in senior management. Keith Ross is Managing Director and Rob Stewart has recently been appointed as the new CEO. Casper Dieben and Chris Burgess report to Rob Stewart.

The management structure on site at WCC is currently undergoing review.

Tony Ryan expressed concerns about a clear line to a person at the mine to deal with or who is WCC's company representative – a qualified person who can deal with any problems. Until formalised Gordon Atkinson will be the short term contact person at the mine.

Tony Ryan expressed that he needs a contact on operational matters. Ron Short identified that there has been a company shuffle going on and he enforced the point that the person needs to be an operational person on site at all times.

Casper Dieben identified Les Latcham, Marshalls Mining and Earthmoving (MME)'s Project Manager as the operations contact and Peter Easey to be the WCC operations contact. Casper Dieben expressed the need for Tony Ryan to contact Les Latcham. WCC will organize an updated list of contacts for MME and WCC to be distributed to CCC members as soon as possible.

Chris Burgess explained that WCC do not operate as mining contractors but that it is in fact MME that do therefore the importance is in being able to contact MME. WCC handle coal processing and dispatch. WCC have to make sure that contractors comply with consent conditions.

Noel Taylor queried noise problems and Chris Burgess explained WCC's procedures for compliance.

Casper Dieben stated that WCC have requested MME to engage a consultant to do a noise validation study. Once problems are identified consultants will be further engaged to conduct specific investigations and monitoring.

Casper Dieben explained that as General Manager he is ultimately responsible and he hopes to be able to deal with all issues as they arise.

Noel Taylor stated that he has seen a truck traveling on the road not covered with tarps. Casper Dieben indicated that investigations are currently underway to have all trucks fitted with electronic covers and that mechanical inspections on trucks are also being conducted.

Note: Item to be included for next meetings Agenda – WCC to provide an Update on Company Information.

Discussion around WCC's quarterly newsletter. It was agreed that the newsletter was a valuable tool and to continue with quarterly monitoring.

7. Update on monitoring results to September 2007

Monitoring results for July, August and September 2007 tabled. Ron Short accepted the tabling of results and reiterated the need to get monitoring results out to CCC members 2 weeks prior to next CCC meeting.

8. General Business

Noel Taylor questioned what happens in the event of a flood.

Chris Burgess highlighted the major issues of water, blast, noise and suggested that WCC could invite specialist consultants to attend CCC meetings to provide specific information on the particular issue.

Tony Ryan raised the point to other CCC members to be aware that the life of Mine could possibly be extended for a longer term and that members need to be aware of aesthetics of the country side for such a long period.

Ron Short asked with the extension of mine, when/what will happen. Chris Burgess explained that WCC is currently developing a revised Mine Plan and that further drilling will take place. Once Mine Plan is developed WCC will engage environmental consultants to prepare the appropriate EIS/DA which will then need to be lodged with Government Departments to gain approval. This would no doubt require public display of the assessment process and would require some time to complete.

Meeting Closed 11.38am.

Following the meeting a site visit to the WCC mine was conducted by MME's Des George.

6. Next Meeting

Next meeting to be planned for February 2008 with a date to be specified. The option of having a site meeting in association with any one of the environmental consultants while on site was considered very appropriate. WCC to let Ron Short know in advance when such an opportunity with consultants arose in order that he could organize the committee to attend the site.

Copy to:

on Short	Chairman
Tony Ryan	Local Community Representative
Chris Holley	Local Community Representative
Jill Coleman	Local Community Representative
Noel Taylor	Local Community Representative
Lindsay Bridge	Local Community Representative

Colin Phillips	DoP
Monique Meyer	DPI
Bob Stewart	LPSC

Des George	MME
Les Latcham	MME

Casper Dieben	WCC
Gordon Atkinson	WCC
Chris Burgess	Whitehaven Coal