

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

## **Seventh Meeting of the Committee**

**Tony Caine Room, Quirindi RSL Club**

**10.00am 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008**

## **MINUTES**

**1. Record of Attendance** Ron Short (Chairman); Tony Ryan (Community Representative) ; Noel Taylor (Community Representative); Jill Coleman (Community Representative) ; Lindsay Bridge (Community Representative) ; Casper Dieben (General Manager WCC); Danny Young (Environmental Manager Whitehaven Group); Lynden Cini (Environmental Officer WCC) Lee McDonagh (WCC).

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

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

Minutes of the previous meeting 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007 Motion moved to accept minutes . Moved Noel Taylor, Seconded Lindsay Bridge.

### **3. Matters Arising**

- Jason Reynolds (new CCC member) has moved to Queensland. All correspondence and a letter from Ron Short has been forwarded to his current address but nobody has received any instruction from him as to if he wishes to remain on the committee. Letter to be forwarded to Department of Planning notifying them of Mr Reynolds absence.
- Ron Short is aware that in light of Mr Reynolds absence the CCC may need to advertise for new members.
- Casper Dieben reported that WCC trucks do have tarps and trucks are now fitted with electronic tarps.

### **4. Declaration of Pecuniary or other interests**

Tony Ryan stated that he and his family are currently involved in negotiations with Whitehaven for the acquisition of "Railway View" and that the property is currently under contract.

### **5. New Matters for discussion under General Business**

- Revised Mine Plan
  - Casper Dieben explained that mine consultant has to develop new mine plan by end of March/early April;
- Underground Workings
  - Company is attempting to establish the exact location of UG workings;
  - A decision has not been made if Whitehaven will mine through UG workings;
  - UG workings are in the mine lease, the current DA consent requires that mining is kept 50m away from the UG workings. In order to mine workings an application to modify DA consent would need to be done.

- Drilling
  - Will be carried out to determine coal resources.
- Exploration
  - Jill Coleman asked in relation to exploration did the company know that coal extended up past Windsor's property. Danny Young replied that there is an assumption that there would be coal but it is an expensive and extensive exercise to determine if economic resource exists. It is for this reason that initial mining and mine planning concentrated on the known reserves from initial exploration work. Any future plans for extension of mining activity would be reliant on additional exploration results and development application procedures; and
  - Ron Short stated that community interest in existence of underground workings was not high and that the community generally was favorable to the development proposal.

Ron Short asked that if WCC sees benefit of expansion and in mining the underground workings could the company gather information on history of Underground Mine and produce a document recording the history of mining in the UG workings. WCC agreed to do this.

#### **6. Acceptance of New Guidelines for Establishing and Operating CCC's for Mining Projects –June 2007**

Motion moved to accept New Guidelines for Establishing and Operating CCC's for Mining Projects – June 2007 tabled previous meeting.

Moved Jill Coleman, seconded Tony Ryan.

#### **7. Werris Creek Coal Pty Ltd (WCC) – Management and Operations update**

Danny Young tabled document listing Werris Creek Coal site contacts explaining that if anyone has any issues to contact any of the people on the list.

#### **8. WCC Draft Action Plan in response to Department of Planning's correspondence dated 20 December 2007 to the 2006/2007 AEMR**

Danny Young explained each issue as per the Draft Action Plan. In addition the following comments/discussion took place:

Noise:

- Spectrum Acoustics would be on site last week of February to commence Sound Power Level Readings on Dozers on stockpile as well as on Marshalls operational plant;
- Casper Dieben explained some of the sound attenuation methods that can be put on machinery, particularly dozers as per the actions undertaken at Whitehaven's Gunnedah Coal Handling and Processing Plant;
- Ron Short asked if noise decreasing measures extended to the training of the dozer and other plant operators. Casper Dieben responded that through this is achieved through toolbox talks as well as having expert advice issued via our noise consultants, Spectrum Acoustics;
- It is likely that project related properties will have monitoring removed upon amendment to the noise monitoring program and approval by relevant authorities;
- Company expects noise monitoring results to significantly improve;
- Ron Short asked if houses will be tenanted, company responded that may be likely;
- Lindsay Bridge asked if WCC are not using monitoring points would company lose it ability to assess noise. Danny Young responded that company will look at new monitoring

program and assess if new monitoring points will be established in lieu of those properties removed from monitoring as a result of purchase;

#### Blasting:

- Blasting Monitoring program will be reviewed on acquisition of properties currently nominated as blast monitoring points;
- WCC will ensure closer monitoring of meteorological conditions prior to a blast, and improve liaison with the blasting contractor, Orica, as well as with MME;
- Lindsay Bridge commented that 116.0 dBL is quite a high noise level, Danny Young responded that DECC and Orica have been liaising in an effort to improve blast technique and outcome, and this is supported through the more recent blast results. The occurrence of blasts within the 115 -120 dB(L) range should not necessarily be considered an exceedance with the consent allowing for 5% of blasts within this range over a 12 month period;
- Ron Short explained the blasting criteria that WCC must comply within, Casper Dieben added that blasting is very complex, and Ron Short added that Roche Blasting Services did present blasting information at an earlier CCC meeting;

#### Groundwater:

- Groundwater – Danny Young stated that company was awaiting final determination of placement of piezometer's from Geoterra Pty Ltd, and that the company will commission a different hydrologist to install the piezometers so WCC can continue to use Geoterra to provide independent advice on groundwater issues to the satisfaction of authorities and for use in the provision of information in annual reporting.

#### General:

- Jill Coleman asked if the letter received from Department of Planning was taken as a serious letter of criticism of the company. Danny Young responded that it was a serious cause for concern, which is why he has responded with a positive action plan in an effort to improve performance at the Werris Creek Site and ensure compliance with relevant consent criteria.

Ron Short called for views on the Draft Action Plan from the CCC. The members of the CCC indicated they were satisfied with the proposals put forward in the Action Plan.

Danny Young called for suggestions/actions from CCC members on the basis that this was there opportunity to have input into the proposed actions. The members all agreed that the Action Plan be presented to Department of Planning in its current form.

### **9. Discussion Quarterly Monitoring Results July, August, September 2007**

Tony Ryan commented that members were a lot happier with current presentation of results compared to the old way of receiving all the bulk data. Ron Short agreed that the format was much better.

Lindsay Bridge inquired about the surface water monitoring data and its purpose.

Danny Young responded that WCC are accumulating a bank of data for long term comparison of water quality over time to detect any changes for further investigation. Such data is also useful to mine site staff to assess water quality particularly in terms of Total Suspended Solids levels,

Electrical Conductivity, pH and Oil and Grease so the site can be prepared to undertake ameliorative measures should monitoring results indicate an exceedance of criteria would be likely in the event of any discharge. Lynden Cini added that water sampling results can be compared with ANZECC guidelines.

## 10. Discussion Quarterly Monitoring Results October, November, December 2007

As above

## 11. General Business

- Lindsay Bridge commented that the Dump Height has increased. Casper Dieben explained that the level at the top of the dump at this point in time has been maintained.

### **NOTE: AGENDA ITEM : WCC to present information on waste height at next meeting.**

- Noel Taylor commented when on a site visit after last meeting he observed that there did not appear to be any backfilling progress made. Casper Dieben explained that backfilling is now occurring. He also commented on how soil expands after excavation takes place, resulting in a greater volume of material to be replaced and the requirement for shaped waste emplacements as specified in the final rehabilitation plans. He also explained that the open cut mining process requires an open void arrangement but that the final void at the end of mine life is reduced as much as possible by reshaping and fill. The final void design will also be in accordance with approved plans.

### **NOTE: AGENDA ITEM : WCC to provide copies of Conceptual Design Plan for Final Rehabilitation.**

Meeting Closed 11.45am.

## 12. Next Meeting

Meeting date to be discussed between Ron Short and Lynden Cini. All agreed that Thursday was the best day to hold the meetings.

### **Copy to:**

Ron 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