

Werris Creek Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

Eighth Meeting of the Committee

Tony Caine Room, Quirindi RSL Club

10.00am 5th June 2008

MINUTES

1. Record of Attendance Ron Short (Chairman); Chris Holley (Community Representative) Jill Coleman (Community Representative); Lindsay Bridge (Community Representative); Des George (MME); Casper Dieben (General Manager WCC); Merv Pendergast (LPSC) Lynden Cini (Environmental Officer WCC) Lee McDonagh (WCC).

Apologies Tony Ryan (Community Representative); Noel Taylor (Community Representative).

Attendance Record Motion moved by Chris Holley, seconded by Lindsay Bridge.

Ron Short noted that Tony Ryan has indicated that he will be tendering his resignation shortly.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting 24th February 2008 accepted as true representation of business conducted on day. Motion moved.

Moved Lindsay Bridge, Seconded Lynden Cini.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary or other interests

None declared.

4. New Matters for discussion under General Business

- L Bridge – Phone calls from Mr & Mrs Davies to Mr Bridge regarding noise from mine.
- L Bridge – Length of trains and times at crossings.

5. Presentation of Waste Height information by WCC

Lynden Cini presented extracts from EIS and MOP with Plan 6 Final Rehabilitation and Plan 7 Cross Sections (Yr 3) with copies to each CC representative.

General overview by Lynden Cini followed: topics centred:

- on mine void,
- waste height is as per MOP and EIS requirements with the top section yet to be backfilled with subsoil and topsoil.
- current rehabilitation working on 3,500 trees to be planted next week or so.
- tree seedling trials on southern side planted on 14th April 2008.

Merv Pendergast questioned:

- water management in final void – erosion control particularly long term,
- Safety aspect of final void

Lynden Cini explained the current contour banks, amendments made since the MOP Plans and current Site water management .

Merv Pendergast urged company to seriously think about future mine void problems and consult with water specialist consultants when planning for the future.

Ron Short stated that the presentation given by Lynden Cini satisfies committees questions.

Motion Moved by Merv Pendergast, seconded Lindsay Bridge to accept the report presented on Item 5 – Presentation of waste height information and Item 6 Copies of conceptual Design Plan for Final Rehabilitation.

7. Discussion Quarterly Monitoring Results July, August, September 2007

Lynden Cini presented brief overview of results stating 2 noise exceedances and 1 Ph exceedance after a discharge event.

With regards to previous noise problems at “Railway View”, Whitehaven has now purchased the property. Lindsay Bridge commented that Neville Davies who lives on property directly behind “Railway View” has been complaining.

Lynden Cini explained that noise attenuation measures such as idlers and sprockets etc on dozers that are currently being trailed at Whitehaven’s Gunnedah washplant have shown a reduction in noise. Casper Dieben added that Dozers are only permitted to reverse in 1st gear at WCC and that following on from one more trial at Gunnedah a decision will be made regarding fitting the same noise reduction measures on WCC dozers.

Lynden Cini has provided correspondence to DoP and DECC with regards to all measures the company has been implementing and that the Departments seem pleased with the company’s progress to date.

Ron Short raised issue of increase in road haulage tonnage as per Point 4 Department of Plannings Audit report. Ron Short explained that the real issue for community is the cumulative impact that these increases can cause and that issue is a concern.

Casper Dieben explained that with export sales return is far higher than domestic sales. WCC has been fined for exceeding the 30,000 tonne limit set in the DA consent and that WCC has planned to apply to the Department of Planning for a modification to the DA Consent to increase the domestic limit to 50,000 tonnes per year.

Merv Pendergast stated that it is a huge cost for council to repair local roads, and that company should think about damage to local roads/towns and come up with figure per tonne/km to pay for use and maintenance of local roads.

Lynden Cini explained that the submission to apply to increase the domestic load limit was part of an application that included several issues and that it had not been submitted yet.

Casper Dieben stated that the domestic sales was only a very small part of WCC operation and in some regards was a community service to local business.

Ron Short stated that coal transport on local roads was not a concern in initial mine discussion.

Motion Moved that Quarterly results be accepted. Moved by Chris Holley and seconded Lindsay Bridge.

8. General Business

- Davies – Lynden Cini update. Complaint from Neil Davies recorded, Peter Easey (Site Manager WCC) and Lynden Cini visited Mr Davies to discuss noise issues. Mr Davies was also of the opinion that WCC was blasting at night. Noise monitoring and blast monitoring was undertaken at Davies property with no exceedances recorded. After additional complaints from Mr Davies WCC has paid for a structural report on Davies property which is still pending.

Noise consultants have suggested that there could be a problem with noise exceedances under temperature inversion conditions.

Lynden Cini stated that further assessment of Davies problems will be undertaken.

- Update history on Underground workings – Des George has spoken to Bob Cameron (previous owner of “Old Colliery”) and he will be providing some information. Ron Short asked that the committee attempt to seek information on Underground workings. History on Underground workings to remain as Agenda Item for future meetings.
- Length of Trains – Issue of safety at railway crossings, not directly a WCC problem but WCC will make enquiries with Pacific National (Paul Scarf) and to report back to CCC.
- AEMR has been completed and a hard copy and CD given to CCC members to revise. Agenda Item – AEMR Discussion

Meeting Closed 11.20am.

9. Next Meeting

Meeting date to be discussed between Ron Short and Lynden Cini in three months time. 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
Danny Young	WCC