



WERRIS CREEK COAL PTY LTD

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

1st QUARTERLY REPORT

April, May, June 2008

This report covering the period 1st April 2008 to 30th June 2008 is the first quarterly Environmental Monitoring Report for the 2008/9 Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR) reporting period (1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009).

The report includes environmental monitoring results for the on-site Weather Station, Air Quality, Noise (operational and blasting), Surface and Ground Water together with complaints received and general detail covering site environmental matters.

Note: Monitoring results with any non compliance of monitoring criteria are highlighted in **yellow**.

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Appendices

Appendix 1	Deposited Dust Monitoring Results
Appendix 2	Noise Monitoring Results
Appendix 3	Blast Monitoring Results
Appendix 3	Ground Water Monitoring Results
Appendix 4	Surface Water Monitoring Results

1.0 WEATHER STATION

WEATHER

Weather data was available for 95 % of April. Data loss occurred on the 1st of April and the 30th April.

Weather data was available for 100 % of May.

Weather data was available for 100% of June.

2.0 AIR QUALITY

2.1 HVAS (PM10) Monitoring

High Volume Air Sample (HVAS) monitoring for particulate matter less than 10 micron in size (PM10) is conducted at four sites listed below.

WCHV1 – “Old Colliery” or Marquettes

WCHV2 – Pattersons

WCHV3 – “Railway View” or Ryans

WCHV4 – “Eurunderee”

In addition a fifth site WCHV5 at “Railway View” continues to sample total suspended particulate (TSP) matter to monitor the PM10/TSP relationship on a voluntary basis to assist with government departmental air quality data collection and correlation.

Sample data is scheduled for 24 hours every 6 days in accordance with DECC – EPA protocols and results are reported as micro grams per cubic metre of air sampled or ug/m3.

2.1.1 Monitoring Data Results

Werris Creek HVAS results									
Date						24hr criteria	annual criteria		PM10/TSP Ratio
	Marquett (PM10)	Patterson (PM10)	Ryan (PM10)	Eurunderee (PM10)	Ryan TSP	PM10	PM10	TSP	
5/04/2008	12	2	15	5	16	50	30		94%
11/04/2008	24	6	6	6	23	50	30		26%
17/04/2008	18	6	5	14	12	50	30		42%
23/04/2008	11	3	2	5	12	50	30		17%
29/04/2008	26	5	18	4	50	50	30		36%
5/05/2008	11	7	12	10	35	50	30		34%
11/05/2008	16	18	24	40	39	50	30		62%
17/05/2008	26	29	23	25	39	50	30		59%
23/05/2008	23	14	13	47	21	50	30		62%
29/05/2008	23	17	20	21	28	50	30		71%
4/06/2008	3	1	1	44	2	50	30		50%
10/06/2008	2	2	1	2	5	50	30		20%
16/06/2008	1	1	6	2	7	50	30		86%
22/06/2008	1	1	1	1	3	50	30		33%
28/06/2008	8	8	13	6	37	50	30		35%

2.1.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

All individual PM10 24 hour average results, at all sites, were equal to or below the short term 24 hour impact criteria of 50ug/m³.

All PM10 sites are below the long term impact and land acquisition annual impact criteria of 30ug/m³.

The TSP site is below the long term impact and land acquisition annual impact criteria of 90ug/m³.

2.2 DEPOSITED DUST

Limits were removed from Environment Protection Licence 12290 pertaining to mean annual dust deposition, however, in accordance with commitments within the approved Air Quality Monitoring Programme, monthly routine air quality monitoring for Werris Creek Coal continues to be undertaken for deposited dust.

2.2.1 Monitoring Data Results

As can be seen in Appendix 1, there were four sets of elevated results for depositional dust during the period. These results were sampled from a receptor on the mine lease and from the "Old Colliery" which is a project related property.

2.3 AIR QUALITY COMPLAINTS

2 Complaints Received .

3.0 NOISE

Noise Monitoring is conducted by Spectrum Acoustics at the following locations:

R2: Zeolite, R3: Cinta, R4: Old Colliery, R5: Mountain View, R6: Hillview (mine owned residence) R7: Railway View, R8: Hazeldene, and R10: Escott. Three sets of measurements are made over the "circuit", one during the day time period, (before 6pm), one during the evening period (from 6pm – 10pm) and one at night (after 10pm).

The noise emission criterion for WCC is 35dB(A) unless otherwise subject to a current, legally binding agreement between WCC and the occupant of the affected residential property. Hillview, Railway View and Old Colliery (Marquett) are mine owned residences and as such monitoring results above 35dB(A) are not recorded as non-compliances.

WCC environmental licence conditions indicate that compliance with noise emission criteria is not applicable under atmospheric conditions where wind speeds are higher than 3m/s and/or there is temperature inversion of greater than +3 degreesC/100m.

3.1 OPERATIONAL NOISE

3.1.1 Monitoring Data Results

23 rd April	Railway View	8:43 pm	2.0 m/s 167°	WCC (39) Exceedance of 4 dB(A)LAeq
30 th June (Day)	Cintra	3:29 pm	2.4 m/s 320°	WCC (44) Exceedance of 7 dB(A)LAeq

3.1.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

23rd & 24th April, Railway view – The elevated noise levels recorded at Railway view during the evening monitoring were caused by general emissions from the pit. It is believed the sample was taken before operators had taken machinery below ground level, which is the normal practice for reducing emissions.

30th June, Cintra – Noise exceedance during the day at Cintra was due to noise emissions from a dozer working on the coal stockpile at the rail load-out facility. Operator believed to be reversing down stock pile in 2nd gear which is outside of WCC 1st gear reverse policy.

All other elevated levels represented in Appendix 2 are not exceedances. This may be due to one or a combination of three factors, those being:

- Temperature inversion of greater than +3 degreesC/100m.
- Wind speeds greater than 3m/s.
- A private agreement with the landholder.

3.1.3 Action Taken

The Railway view property has been purchased by Whitehaven Coal and is now a project related property.

After careful review of the “Cintra” noise exceedance by WCC staff, the external acoustic consultant provided field notes taken on the day of analysis explaining the dozer working the stockpile during the monitoring period did not operate under the 1st gear reverse policy. Early tests undertaken at the Gunnedah CHPP indicate a 7-9dB reduction when reversing in 1st gear as compared with reversing in 2nd gear. WCC would like to advise the committee that the Site Manager has undertaken additional toolbox talks and provided clear instructions to operate under the 1st gear reverse policy with individual dozer operators. We believe that if this policy is maintained then exceedances of this nature should be greatly reduced.

Following a complaint received in March from Mr. N. Davies of the property “Marengo” Spectrum Acoustics were engaged to undertake noise monitoring at the “Marengo” property on the afternoon, evening and night of 23rd April 2008. The results (see Appendix 2) show that received noise levels did not exceed the 35 dB(A)LAeq(A) Leq(15 min) noise criterion during the monitoring period. Additional noise monitoring has been undertaken at “Marengo” since and WCC are continuing a close relationship with Mr. Davies and are still providing assistance in this area until a beneficial outcome is reached.

3.2 NOISE COMPLAINTS

No complaints were received regarding noise.

4.0 BLAST

During this reporting period a total of 20 blasts numbered ORICA 87 to ORICA 106 were fired.

4.1 BLAST MONITORING

4.1.1 Monitoring Data Results

See Appendix 3.

4.1.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

All blasts complied with blast criterion.

4.1.3 Action Taken

No Actions necessary.

4.2 BLAST COMPLAINTS

No Complaints received regarding blasting.

5.0 WATER

Groundwater monitoring was undertaken in April 2008 by Ecowise Environmental.

Surface water monitoring was undertaken in April 2008 by Ecowise Environmental.

4.1 GROUND WATER

4.1.1 Monitoring Data Results

See Appendix 4 Groundwater Monitoring Results.

4.1.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

No recorded exceedances.

4.2 SURFACE WATER

4.2.1 Monitoring Data Results

See Appendix 5 Surface water monitoring Results.

4.2.2 Discussion - Compliance / Non Compliance

No exceedances.

6.0 COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

2 Complaints were received during this period.

Telephone Call to Lindsay Fulloon DECC	Unknown resident of Werris Creek	No 26 1/04/2008	Plume of dust moving east off site across Werris Creek/Quirindi Road at approximately 8.30am.		Email to Lindsay Fulloon detailing operation of dust suppression activities undertaken at the time of complaint, consultation with MME and L Cini's observation of site at that time of morning. DECC pleased with WCC response.
Complaint made to Peter Easey	Mr Lindsay Patterson	No 27 22/05/2008	Coal dust blowing off train carriage & onto property. Concerned that tank water may contain coal dust.	L Cini visited property and spoke to Mr Patterson.	L Cini offered to install first flush system and in line filter. Items purchased and installed at cost to WCC on rain water supply at Patterson residence. L Cini rang Mr Patterson on 24/06/2008 to confirm abovementioned works had commenced. Mr Patterson indicated he was happy with work to date.

7.0 GENERAL

As can be seen from the road there has been a lot of progress on the rehab area facing the Werris Creek / Quirindi Road which has generated a great deal of interest within the local community. Fallen timber has been re-established on the rehab providing additional habitat and will encourage the repopulation of a variety of native fauna species. A mass planting of White box, Yellow Box and Blakely's Red Gum (an endangered ecological community as recognised within the Werris Creek EIS) has also been undertaken. Approximately 3100 individual tube stock plants, of the above mentioned species have been planted on the rehab area, with an additional 400 odd plants being planted around the train load-out area to assist in reducing potential visual, dust and noise impacts from this area. WCC is very pleased with the progress to date and general discussions with locals from Werris Creek and Quirindi has indicated the same.

The AEMR has been submitted as most would be aware and a copy of this document is circulating through the members of the CCC. The AEMR on site review has been set for the 9th of September 2008. All appropriate government departments have been invited with most likely to be represented during the onsite review process.

Werris Creek Coal has recently lodged a minor modification application to the existing Development Consent with the Department of Planning. The modification requests an increase to the rail load-out stockpile from 20 000t to 100 000t, an increase in public road haulage from 30 000 t/per year to 50 000t/per year and the construction of a 35ML void water dam. It is envisaged that a determination on the modification will be made within the month.

The 8th Community Consultative Committee meeting was held 5th June 2008.

Please feel free to ask any questions in relation to the information contained within this document during item 7 of the meeting agenda.

Sincerely

Lynden Cini