

Werris Creek Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

Tenth Meeting of the Committee

Whitehaven Training Room, Werris Creek Coal Mine

10.00am 17th February 2009

MINUTES

1. Record of Attendance Ron Short (Chairman); Jill Coleman (Community Representative); Noel Taylor (Community Representative); Chris Holley (Community Representative); Des George (Whitehaven); Neil McGarry (LPSC); Danny Young (Whitehaven); Mick Post (Whitehaven); Lynden Cini (Environmental Officer WCC); Lee McDonagh (WCC).

Apologies: None

2. Matters Arising

Noel Taylor queried if Tony Ryan had to be replaced. Refer General Business.

Coal Dust on trains. Refer General Business.

Noel Taylor queried backfilling and the dump emplacement on the western side. Des George explained that the area Noel was referring to would be shaped and rehabilitated.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Chairman referred to letter that was going to be written to Pacific National by Merv Prendergast (LPSC).

Chairman referred to letter that was going to be written by WCC and sent from CCC.

Both letters to be followed up by chairman.

Minutes of the previous meeting 4th September 2008 accepted as true representation of business conducted on day. Motion moved.

Moved Jill Coleman, Seconded Noel Taylor.

4. Declaration of Pecuniary or other interests

Noel Taylor called the WCC complaints line a number of times during the quarterly period.

5. New Matters for discussion under General Business

- Company Organisational structure
- Correspondence from Department of Planning
- Correspondence from Liverpool Plains Shire Council

6. Remuneration to CCC Members

Chairman referred to letter from Whitehaven with regards to remuneration that was mailed to all CCC members.

Lynden Cini called for comments from CCC members.

Jill Coleman – “can understand company’s viewpoint and does not wish to be compromised”.

Noel Taylor – suggestion that Chairman Ron Short be reimbursed for expenses incurred.

Danny Young explained that he spoke to the Department of Planning to get an idea of what other Consultative Committee’s were doing. The response from DoP was that situations were varied. Some committee’s were receiving remuneration, some only the chairman and some committee’s were receiving no remuneration. He also said that Whitehaven did not want to see any alignment of CCC members with the company.

Chris Holley – “As far as expenses go – maybe remuneration for fuel but the chairman should be reimbursed for expenses”.

Ron Short – as independent chair, he understands the company’s policy and can understand how the community may perceive matter if members were remunerated. He does not need the money “but would prefer to see a “meeting attendance fee” which accrues each meeting and is then put back into the local community. Handling expense to allocate an amount of money (\$4000 suggested) a year that could be distributed within the community and decided by CCC members as to where it goes.

Danny Young – “if the chairman was to respond to his Whitehaven letter putting his suggestion forward he will take that proposal to Whitehaven management”.

Ron Short stated that in this way impartiality remains which was agreed to by Chris Holley.

Lynden Cini commented that if members were to decide where the money is spent than a degree of impartiality is lost.

Ron Short – determining where money would be spent would be up to CCC members and voted on. That it must be a group decision as to neediest recipients. He stated that he would be happy to write a letter to Whitehaven regarding this matter. He is also happy to bear cost of chairman job and reimbursement of expenses would only complicate matters.

Neil McGarry – felt that DoP should be remunerating members and should have steps in place to address this type of issue.

General discussion followed regarding Government bodies and remuneration.

Motion Moved that the Chairman write to Whitehaven with a proposal as discussed that does not directly benefit CCC members.

Moved by Chris Holley and seconded Jill Coleman.

7. Discussion Quarterly Monitoring Results July, August, September 2008

Lynden Cini presented overview of results noting the following:

1. Weather station has now been replaced after data loss occurred again in December.
2. HVAS – no exceedances
3. Deposited Dust – one exceedance with written advice to Cintra and DECC.

Chairman asked Noel Taylor if he had any questions and if not would he step outside whilst complaints were discussed.

Lynden Cini explained how this quarter saw the end of negotiations and a resolution with Neville Davies after a large amount of additional noise monitoring was conducted at the property with all results indicating well below licence limits.

Ron Short asked if results were validated.

Lynden Cini replied that all analysis is validated through and independent and approved noise consultant and results undertaken were under the licence limits. Danny Young added that not only the blast monitoring at Neville Davies but also at the property "Railway View" results were clearly within the limits.

Lynden Cini followed with discussion of Taylor complaints, stating that Peter Easey and Lynden Cini spoke in person to Noel and his family on numerous occasions. Additional monitoring at "Park Hill" took place, complaints have continued into the next quarter and that test results showed no exceedances.

Jill Coleman asked if the problems that Taylor's were experiencing could happen under inversion conditions. Lynden Cini replied yes.

Chris Holley asked "how can windows rattle."

Lynden Cini explained how they have constantly been visiting "ParkHill" with continued negotiations into the next quarter.

Followed by general discussion about/monitoring/inversion and that depending on the atmospheric conditions the noise could be louder but due to these conditions may not be an exceedance. Lynden Cini explained that after numerous complaints and attempts to resolve the noise issues at the Taylor property has been resolved during the current quarter.

*Motion Moved that Quarterly results be accepted.
Moved by Jill Coleman and seconded Noel Taylor.*

8. Proposed Minor Extension SOEE

Danny Young – active mining limit beyond DA Consent. Requires modification of Consent to extend boundary as shown on map distributed amongst members. Extends mine life by another 3-4 years and goes through underground workings.

Lynden Cini explained that there is about 320 megalitres of underground water contained within the old underground workings and this will need to be dewatered. Surface water structures to be built on an as needs basis for long term water storage pending approval.

Jill Coleman asked about the quality of the water.

Danny Young responded that it is classified as pit water and must be contained and used on site. The company may utilize water for irrigation purposes on site but would need approval from Dept of Water.

Ron Short asked the extent of development. Danny Young replied potential area depends on economic factors. Jill Coleman asked if the coal from the extension area would be the same quality as that out of the current area. Lynden Cini and Danny Young agreed it should be of similar quality. Chris Holley asked if economic crisis was affecting company. Des George said

that the Werris Creek mine was not affected at this stage but the other Whitehaven mines which have different coal quality were feeling the effect of the downturn.

9. General Business

1. History of Underground Workings update – Ron Short stated that due to the plans given for the extension that emphasis must be placed on getting the history together. Ron Short asked if there would be a residual water structure that could be environmentally/recreational used in the community. Lynden Cini said that the water would need to be used for dust suppression purposes etc as it is believed that once the water is extracted, the only water sources on site will that which is retained after rain events . The water held in the underground workings is an independent body of water which has accumulated after rain events over a number of years.
2. Letter to Pacific National – Committee to forward letter to Pacific Nation raising issue of dust from trains. Ron Short also will speak to Merv Pendergast. This needs to be done in the next week or two. Lynden Cini to assist draft letter.
3. Organisational Structure – By Des George. Marshalls Mining and Earthmoving are no longer on site. As of January 2009 Whitehaven is the soul operator at the Werris Creek Mine. Mick Post is the appointed Project Manager and Des George is the Manager of Mining Engineer and he has the statutory responsibilities of the DA Consent. There has been new machinery introduced. Blasting/Drilling is contracted and some maintenance on machinery is contracted.
4. Dust – discussed previously
5. Department of Planning correspondence dated 22nd September 2008 and titled WCC – Resignation of Community Consultative Member. There is no requirement to replace Tony Ryan at the stage.
6. LPSC correspondence dated 27th October 2008 re Bob Stewart’s resignation from Council. Merv Pendergast is the new council delegate to replace Bob Stewart.
7. Other – Neil McGarry stated a thank you from Council for the donation from Whitehaven for the Werris Creek Library.

10. Next Meeting

Thursday 12th March 2009 at 10.00am at the Whitehaven Training Room.

Copy to:

Ron Short	Chairman
Chris Holley	Local Community Representative
Jill Coleman	Local Community Representative
Noel Taylor	Local Community Representative
Lindsay Bridge	Local Community Representative

Anna Bradley	DoP
Monique Meyer	DPI
Merv Pendergast	LPSC

Des George	Whitehaven Coal
Mick Post	Whitehaven Coal
Casper Dieben	Whitehaven Coal
Danny Young	Whitehaven Coal
Lynden Cini	Whitehaven Coal
Peter Easey	Whitehaven Coal