

Werris Creek Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

Eleventh Meeting of the Committee

Whitehaven Training Room, Werris Creek Coal Mine

10.00am 12th March 2009

MINUTES

1. Record of Attendance:

Ron Short (Chairman); Jill Coleman (Community Representative); Chris Holley (Community Representative); Des George (Whitehaven); Merv Prendergast (LPSC); Lynden Cini (Environmental Officer WCC); Lisa Single (WCC).

Apologies: Ron Vankatwic (LPSC); Casper Dieben (Whitehaven)

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Moved Lynden Cini, Seconded Jill Coleman.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary or other interests

None to report

4. Matters Arising

Merv Prendergast advised CCC meeting letter to Pacific National re dust was sent to Council meeting last month. Advised that Whitehaven not responsible but they were being blamed. Coal dust coming from other trains. A trial was being conducted in QLD using a coagulant to be sprayed over coal once on train. Further discussions refer to General Business.

5. New Matters for Discussion Under General Business

No additional matters to add.

6. Remuneration to CCC Members

Brian Cullen response letter to Ron Short saying Whitehaven will not be implementing reimbursement to members.

Merv Prendergast - Suggested that the CCC advertise in the Financial Year a Community program for recommendation for community initiative for funding.

Des George – Be careful not to create the perception the community to get funding.

Jill Coleman – first port of call to Whitehaven.

Chris Holley – Ask around town, particularly environmental projects that may benefit from funding.

Merv Prendergast - Ask Whitehaven to ask the community where funds may be needed.

Ron Short – If the advertising line is pursued it could get out of control. The purpose is to raise an environment to create a committee for recognition. This could become a nightmare for the committee and Whitehaven. The response from Whitehaven was disappointing and he doesn't agree with "prostituting" the committee for money. Proceed to allocate an amount of money to this committee for us to allocate to specific needs. Suggest the CCC to delegate money.

Des George – Doesn't think Whitehaven has 'shut the gate' if CCC went to the company for Financial Support for the community.

Merv Prendergast – the reason to advertise was because of local knowledge and not knowing the needy. This was a way of finding out who was out there, but is happy to try suggestions.

Ron Short - "we (the committee members) don't want anything out of it"

Chris Holley – needs a personal approach to find an organization with a worthy project. We have to be responsible about it.

Motion moved to receive letter from Brian Cullen and CCC to go back to Whitehaven for some further response to opportunities being missed. List as an agenda item and members to come up with programs that may need some support.

Moved Ron Short, seconded Chris Holley

7. Discussion Quarterly Monitoring Results October, November, December 2008

Lynden Cini apologises for the size of the report and addresses appendix 1 & 2 – Noise Data in raw format.

Jill Coleman – asks how the information is collected.

Lynden Cini – Provided a detail response as to how the data is collected and recorded

Lynden Cini – This period's key component is the Weather Station. There is no data for December, therefore non-conformance against the licencing criteria, no data captured due to weather station fault. This was rectified by the installation of a new weather station in January 09 and included a major hardware and software upgrade.

Ron Short – Who monitors the effects on the Weather Station?

Lynden Cini – I Do. The weather station has been a problem for some time. Hardware is subjected to extreme conditions and was deteriorating. The cost to replace was approx. \$12,000.00. We tried to fix on site but decided to replace. New station should be good for 5+ years.

Ron Short – From the data that is produced, does a consultant do an evaluation each month? Where does the Consultant operate?

Lynden Cini – Yes. Consultant receives raw data from our weather station and compiles a report on the months weather conditions which includes graphed data. They are based in Singleton, however we will be changing to a new company which will be based in Gunnedah soon.

Jill Coleman – Is the data better with the new weather station?

Lynden Cini – The data is the same but with the new system in place we shouldn't have any further problems with the weather station not collecting the data. Eventually we will also be able to view real time weather information remotely (Off site).

There were two positive dust increases, refer page 4, not recognised as non compliance's due to the monitors location on the mine lease – South Boundary

Jill Coleman - Is wind a factor?

Lynden Cini – Extreme wind from the North of the site can be a contributor to this exceedance.

Merv Prenderast - Why is the South Boundary a Problem? Maybe turbulent effect! Would like to see why! Maybe test by bringing dust monitor 200mtrs this side to test turbulent affect.

Ron Short asks if there has been an exceedance in the past.

Jill Coleman – Can it be moved over on the Boundary

Lynden Cini – looking over the history in the last 12-24mths the results have been up and down. The site is located on the boundary to give an indication as to any dust coming off the. The monitor may also be influenced by external dust sources as well, such as dust generated off Wadwells lane. It can't be moved without approval from Planning and DECC.

Chris Holley – Seems like it may be an area of turbulence.

Ron Short – Ask Whitehaven to consider a way to address marginal exceedance – Leave open ended for monitoring by Whitehaven.

Lynden Cini – Another major point in the quarter was three wet weather discharges in November and December. Heavy rain attributed to the discharge. Discharged waters were sampled and resulted in an increase in total suspended solids. Reports to DECC. Correspondence between DECC and L.Cini state at this stage no action will be taken due to foreshadowed change in licencing requirements. (See details in quarterly report page 8/9).

Ron Short – was there any blast concerns in the last quarter?

Lynden Cini – None to report. There were 6 complaints from Noel Taylor, the last being 17/12/08.

Chris Holley – asks if the mine operates to 3am.

Des George – it operates to 4am.

Motion moved to accept quarterly report.

Moved Merv Prendergast, seconded Jill Coleman.

8. General Business

- A. History of Underground Workings update – Des George says there are bits and pieces out there that maybe there maybe somebody in the community that could help. Ron Short suggests that maybe we think about who may be interested or capable of assisting with the history. Someone may have documents that could help. Lynden Cini suggested that maybe the library will have something. Des George says the Historical Society should be able to help also. There were suggestions that a notice be placed on the library notice board that we are looking for someone to put it all together. Any interested party could forward their interest to Lynden Cini. Merv Prendergast agreed that Lynden Cini be the point of contact.
- B. Letter to Pacific National – Committee to forward letter to Pacific National raising issue of dust from trains. Letter was dealt with by Paul Scarf. Ron Short had a number of calls from Paul Scarf and was to get back to Ron Short before this meeting. Paul Scarf sounded genuine and said he would pursue it. Ron had some good discussions with Paul Scarf. Although the solution had been resolved down stream it was a challenge that Pacific National had across the state. Ron Short has a mobile number to chase it up. Merv Prendergast happy to wait for the next step for Pacific national to fix. Chris Holley asked if the coal was washed and stated he had surveyed a number of local train drivers. The train traveled at 80km through Quirindi and the dust came from the coal loaded at Werris Creek and it was very bad through Quirindi. Ron Short says there was a verbal complaint that the dust was from WCC. Dates & times need to be recorded for evidence that it is WCC coal. Chris Holley states that before the speed limit was only 50km now it is 80km ph. Maybe the speed needs to be reduced through the town. Merv Prendergast says it is a council issue as well as a safety issue. Chris Holley suggests that there be an onsite meeting concerning the dust with representatives from Pacific National, ARTC and Whitehaven. Ron Short suggested a letter be sent to Council regarding CCC concerns.
- C. Merv Prendergast requests a copy of the Tenure for the CCC Chair person position. Ron Short will try to get something together.

Next Meeting

TBA

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 |

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|-----------------|------|
| Anna Bradley | DoP |
| Michael Lloyd | DPI |
| Merv Pendergast | LPSC |

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|---------------|-----------------|
| Des George | Whitehaven Coal |
| Mick Post | Whitehaven Coal |
| Casper Dieben | Whitehaven Coal |
| Danny Young | Whitehaven Coal |
| Lynden Cini | Whitehaven Coal |
| Brian Cullen | Whitehaven Coal |