

Werris Creek Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

Thirteenth Meeting of the Committee

Whitehaven Training Room, Werris Creek Coal Mine

10.00am 19 November 2009

MINUTES

1. Record of Attendance:

Ron Short (Chairman); Lindsay Bridge (Community Representative); Noel Taylor (Community Representative); Chris Holley (Community Representative); Jill Coleman (Community Representative); Ron Van Katwyk (Liverpool Plains Shire Council - LPSC); Des George (Werris Creek Coal - WCC); Mick Post (Project Manager WCC); Lynden Cini (Environmental Officer WCC); Lisa Single (WCC).

Apologies: Casper Dieben (Whitehaven)

RS addressed the committee welcoming RVK to the Committee. RVK is the Director of Environmental Services for the LPSC. JC asked if Paul Moules (LPSC Councilor) is replacing the other council representative. RVK commented that in Council's September report that Paul was appointed as the Council delegate to this committee. The CCC have not been notified of the appointment so therefore Paul Moules wasn't included in the distribution of the last minutes so therefore he wouldn't have known the meeting was on. RVK to notify council that the CCC hasn't been notified of Paul Moules appointment.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting 29th July 2009 accepted as true representation of business conducted on day. Motion moved.

Moved: Noel Taylor, Seconded: Ron Short. Motion carried

3. Declaration of Pecuniary or other interests

None declared.

4. Matters Arising

- RS pointed out a wording error in the minutes of the 29th July 2009. This has now been corrected.
- In relation to the questions and discussions of the dust issues, RS has had a brief discussion with RVK. RVK indicated that Council was pursuing the questions regarding the dust issues.
- Another matter came up of who was looking at the cumulative impact and the answer that RS got from the authorities was that nobody was. It is not known if that has been raised in Council's correspondence. It is a concern that as the mine develops; cumulative impact of uncontrolled dust emissions off trains is going to cause some problems for some people. RVK commented that the dust issue is starting to be addressed in the Hunter Valley. Dust monitoring stations are just being installed by the new EPA, (Department of Environment,

Climate Change and Water – DECCW). There is controversy in the community about the number of stations and the particulate size that is being monitored. RVK thinks there are about 17 stations going in and only 2 are monitoring the particular size that affects the lungs. In our particular area, it is not going to hit the agenda until the mining DA's are actually lodged. This is a bigger issue than WCC. RVK looking for some material to put into a submission when the DA's go on exhibition and this should be somewhere at the top

5. New Matters for Discussion Under General Business

- DG – New Mine Operations Plan & Road Closures for Blasting.
- LB – Made a point as per the local Coal sales at WCC that the community is unaware of the positive effect this could have for the mine and any other positive things that the Company does for the community. The CCC could draft up something and run it past the promotional group. Management to get back to the CCC.

6. Quarterly Monitoring Results April, May, June 2009

Weather Station – No Problems for the Quarter. 100% capture of data since the upgrade of the weather station January 09.

Dust Monitoring - One exceedance in May. It was taken for the month from 5/5/09 to 4/6/09. The monitor is situated on the Patterson residence north of the mine site. A review of the weather data at that period was strong SSE winds of above 3-5 per second for the predominate course of that month. Major catalyst to this was the wheat paddock that was exposed for most of that month, carried the majority of the dust to this monitor. The exceedance was minor as 3.6 is the limit and the result was 5. High Volume Air Sampling was done and all results were consistent with previous results.

Noise – no issues

Blasting – 16 blasts, no exceedances.

Ground Water Monitoring – RS asks LC to outline why the ground water data shows quite a variation in MW4 from the other ground water stations. Also in the March quarter report MW4 had no tests done but MW4b was tested. LC replied that in early 2008, MW4 was an “on the lease groundwater monitoring point”, which is on the southern side of the pit. It is an open case bore and an animal went down the bore and died with the carcass rotted in the pipe. The bore has a very bad smell and sampling continued which has resulted in some high readings. WCC put down a 2nd monitoring bore about 10 metres from MW4 and that is now MW4b. WCC changed companies that do all the ground water monitoring and the new people took a sample from MW4. The 2nd sampling was done from MW4b and the results were consistent with what was recorded in the past. RS enquired if some alkalinity and mercury readings seem to be in excess of the underground water monitoring figures. The mercury reading in MW4b seems to be excessive and that there seems to be quite a variation of .0013 in the figures between MW4 and MW4b. Is this enough to create a concern? There also seems to be a big discrepancy in some of the figures across the ground water testing sites on calcium carbonate and quite a few of the other elements as well. Is the bore at the bottom of the site being hammered with human impact? We will see what happens in the next quarter monitoring. The ground water issues are crucial to the downstream people. NT commented that his creek and irrigation wells had the most water in them for 10 years 6 weeks ago. LC explains that all of the water quality monitoring that is done over a course 12 month period independently reviewed by an expert. This independent body takes all of the data, review it and check to see that there are no trends or strange jumps in the elements.

Surface Water Monitoring – no issues.

Quarterly Report accepted by the Committee.

7. General Business

A. History of Underground Workings update

RS ask if there was any value of the CCC running an ad in the local paper enquiring if anybody that has any information or would like to contribute. It is agreed that RS would be the point of contact for any forthcoming information. RS to implement.

B. Discussion regarding community programs which may need funding support

- RS commented that Whitehaven Coal funded a project at the local show. The Cattle committee used the money to introduce a couple of new cattle classes. One that they were proud of was a High School teams judging event. There had to be teams of 3 high school students emerging from the Ag sections. The aim was to give a valuable exercise that any prize money that was won went back to the school and the Agriculture section. The event was won by Calrossy, second was McCarthy and third was Calrossy. A photo will be presented to Whitehaven Coal in appreciation in the near future. It was a positive outcome for WCC.
- NT stated Quipolly Church is being restored and that timber was needed. MP asks that somebody draft a letter and send to Mick Post.
- MP said donations to CWA, Werris Creek Scouts & the Railway Museum have been made. Employees are also donating to Westpac Helicopter via a wage deduction. To date \$14,000.00 has been raised.

C. Mine Operation Plan

WCC is required to have an approved Mining Plan demonstrating what the mining schedule is over the next couple of years. A number of plans were displayed showing where the original consent plans were and where WCC is now and where WCC were heading. The approval that is current is for the next 2 years. WCC has gained consent to **1)** open up the Pit, **2)** mine through the underground workings, dewater the underground workings and take that water south to a surface water holding facility, raise the surrounding topographical areas is to bring up to 445ahd from 410ahd **3)** Extend the overburden placement north and easterly. This will come out close to the edge of the lease and close to the Werris Creek Road. This will give WCC extra room for the dumping and will minimise the visual and noise impact. LB asked about the earlier vegetation and preservation order. LC stated WCC have come to an agreement with the departments that the timber can be removed but an offset has been done in the way of locking up a significant proportion of the timber on "RailwayView" for 100 years.

D. Road Closure for Blasting

As the Mine develops it will be necessary to close the road for each blast. One of the consent conditions is to develop a traffic management plan in conjunction with Council and the DPI. There will be some sort of warning system for motorists and this is still to be discussed with Council. All blasting normally takes place at 1:15pm.

- E.** Lynden Cini announced that this was to be his last CCC meeting for WCC as he had resigned from WCC. LC thanked the Committee for their time and input. RS responded on behalf of the committee and expressed their appreciation in his handling of the meetings. The Committee wishes Lynden well in the future.

Meeting Closed 11:25am

Next Meeting 11th March 2010

Copy to:

Ron Short
Chris Holley
Jill Coleman
Noel Taylor
Lindsay Bridge

Chairman
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative
Community Representative

Anna Bradley
Michael Lloyd
Ron Van Katwyk
Paul Moules

DoP
DII
LPSC
LPSC

Casper Dieben
Brian Cullen
Danny Young
Mick Post
Des George
Andrew Wright

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