

Werris Creek Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

Sixteenth Meeting of the Committee

Whitehaven Coal Training Room, Werris Creek Coal Mine

10.00am Thursday 16 Sept 2010

MINUTES

1. Record of Attendance:

Present: Ron Short (Chairman); Lindsay Bridge (Community Representative); Noel Taylor (Community Representative); Chris Holley (Community Representative); Jill Coleman (Community Representative); Col Stewart (Liverpool Plains Shire Council); Ron Van Katwyk (Liverpool Plains Shire Council); Des George (Werris Creek Coal - WCC); Andrew Wright (Environmental Officer WCC); Lisa Single (WCC Minutes Secretary).

Jill Coleman (JC) left meeting at 11:55am. Col Stewart (CS) apologised to the Committee for leaving his mobile phone on as he is part of the Rescue Squad.

Apologies: Mick Post (Project Manager WCC).

2. New Matters for Discussion under General Business

- A. Life of Mine Project Environmental Assessment Update
- B. Community Complaint phone service upgrade
- C. Former Werris Creek Colliery History Update
- D. Letter's to CCC from Resident in Paynes Road, Quipolly
- E. Letter to CCC from Resident in Kurrara St, Werris Creek
- F. Dust from Coal Trains
- G. Groundwater Media Interest
- H. Overburden Emplacement Footprint and Water Management

3. Matters Arising

a) Actions from Previous Meeting

Blasting Notification - AW described how blasting details were now included in the Werris Creek Flyer weekly newsletter. The committee indicated that AW/WCC should follow up attending the Section 355 Committee (Economic Development Committee) meetings. Ron Short (RS) on behalf of the committee suggested that Whitehaven should look at committing more resources for community consultation as he was regularly hearing incorrect stories and other misinformation about Werris Creek Coal from community members. AW said he will update community consultation planning in General Business regarding the WCC LOM Project.

b) Other Matters Arising

Former Werris Creek Colliery Heritage Assessment – Discussion was held on plans for the heritage assessment and has been minuted in Section 6 General Business.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting 27th May 2010 were accepted as true representation of business conducted on day. Motion moved.

Moved: Chris Holley Seconded: Noel Taylor. Motion carried

5. Declaration of Pecuniary or other interests

None declared.

6. Environmental Monitoring Report May, June and July 2010

Weather Station – The weather station was 100% available for May and June, however only 97% of data was available during July due to a 14 hour time correction to the Weather Station. WCC was planning to relocate the weather station to the top of the overburden emplacement and upgrade communications on the weather station to improve temperature inversion monitoring and programming capabilities.

Dust – Overall results have been within compliance; however one result was contaminated from “Plain View” that had high levels of organic matter (i.e. bird droppings and insects).

Noise – During the period monitoring results from attended monitoring were within compliance; however there were elevated noise levels measured at “Glenara” and “Almawillie” due to strong temperature inversions present during the winter monitoring.

Blasting – A total of 36 blasts were fired during the period with no exceedances recorded.

Groundwater – Groundwater level monitoring observed a downward trend prior to the recent rainfall, which have subsequently rapidly risen again following good recharge from heavy winter rains.

Surface water - There were 3 discharge events, 1 due to rainfall and 2 controlled discharges that were all within our Environmental Protection Licence conditions.

Complaints – There were 10 complaints for the period with four complaints regarding blasting, three complaints regarding noise, two complaints about groundwater and one complaint regarding lighting.

Action taken regarding ground water complaints to date has been to expand the number of bores being monitoring particularly in the Quipolly Creek area. Since May, WCC have added another 20 bores on neighbouring properties and have commenced monitoring all bores monthly. The data collected prior to and after the recent rainfall showed that the rapid rise in groundwater levels indicated that the alluvium and basalt aquifers are heavily influenced by rainfall recharge supporting the conclusions in the 2010 Annual Water Monitoring Review.

Action taken regarding blasting complaints to date has been to establish a new monitoring location on the southern edge of Werris Creek township. In additional, WCC have begun notifying a particularly complainant of likely blasts that could be louder than normal as well as completing a Structural Integrity Assessment of their residence. Both monitoring results and the structural assessment have not identified any issues as a result of blasting activities.

Action taken regarding noise complaints to date has seen WCC adopt two new procedures for Continuous Noise Monitoring and Mitigation and Truck Operation Noise Mitigation. Also the continuous noise monitor has been located to the south on Paynes Road as representative of the Quipolly area.

Action taken regarding lighting complaints are being addressed by the OCE’s doing a circuit of the mine site every night to make sure that Werris Creek Road is not being inconvenienced. Also the Project Manager and Coal Processing Managers have tool boxed staff in setting up lighting plants focusing on orienting lights to the west as much practicable away from Werris Creek residences.

Motion moved to accept the Environmental Monitoring Report May to July 2010

Moved: Lindsay Bridge. Seconded: Jill Coleman. Motion Carried.

7. General Business

- A) **WCC LOM Project Environmental Assessment (EA) Progress** - RS reiterated the need for WCC to inform the community about the Life of Mine Project. AW indicated that the EA has not yet been finalised but will be submitted to Department of Planning in October. Consultation undertaken to date focused on one on one meetings with the nearest neighbours in Quipolly and southern Werris Creek. Also one community newsletter had been produced and a second newsletter was soon to be published. On the 20th October 2010 there will be a Community Day as well as an Open day for the mine, where WCC and specialist consultants will be available to explain to the community about the mining proposal and other issues. The Department of Planning will review the EA and once they accept it as adequate, it will be placed on public exhibition during December. Overall, the project approval will not be determined until June 2011. CH stated that the only problem for Werris Creek residents will be blasting and not the noise. CH & JC suggest that the promotional material needs to push the fact that the mining is stopping at the Cintra Hill and outline the management options that WCC will undertake to reduce noise. CS commented on Council's role in the process – LPSC were given a copy of the preliminary EA and were expected to make comments. RVK stated that they had made 17 dot point submission and was surprised that there had not been any clarification from WCC or their consultants. RVK continued that the interaction between road and rail was a big concern to council. AW indicated WCC knew that they needed to address these matters and were being currently integrated into the EA, however AW will get the consultants to contact LPSC.
- B) **Community Complaints Phone Line Service Upgrade** - There are now additional options instead of just leaving a message so that even after hours an immediate response was possible where option 1 will be put through to Environmental Officer; Option 2 will be put through to the OCE and Option 3 leave a message.
- C) **Former Werris Creek Colliery Heritage Assessment** – Jill Coleman (JC) asked how Chris Holley (CH) was going with the 4700 documents he was going through on the mine history. CH has sent quite a lot of documents to Matt Cupper for compiling. RS asks if there is anything significant found and what method of recording the mine workings is in place. Des George (DG) stated that there is a record tracing for the underground workings but as an Open Cut we don't have to keep records but for prosperity we will reestablish the tracing. AW stated that Matt Cupper had finished his heritage assessment for the Life of Mine Project and was now to start documenting a history of the old colliery if the committee agrees. The Committee agreed to use Matt Cupper to produce a 10-20 page A5 size document with the information he already has. AW will get the CCC to review the draft prior to publishing. RS suggested that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting and AW will send out the draft with the monitoring report for CCC to look at prior to the next meeting.

AW told the CCC that during the heritage assessment they found hand and foot prints in concrete belonging to Dora Koops and her sister when they were young. The story goes that their uncle laid the slab during the time of World War 2 because he couldn't get back overseas because of the blockade. WCC has cut the prints out of the slab and gave them to Dora and her sister.

- D) **Letter's to CCC from Resident in Paynes Road** - "Hazeldene" property resident's have written two letter to CCC which have been tabled prior to and at this meeting. The residents

had written to the committee about their concerns and complaints regarding noise, groundwater levels and dust. RS had had meetings with the residents on 29 July and 30 July and had a look around their property. AW indicated that on the 26 August WCC representatives held a meeting with property owners and an agreement is being drawn up. A couple of committee members indicated that they believed that the residents had lived on the property for a shorter period of time than was presented in the letters. A motion was moved for RS to write a letter indicating that the matter had been discussed at a CCC meeting and the Committee was satisfied with the company's response at this time and hope that these issues can be resolved amicably.

Moved: Chris Holley. Seconded: Jill Coleman. Motion Carried

- E) **Letter's to CCC from Resident in Kurrara Street** - RS received correspondence from the residents in Kurrara St Werris Creek regarding issues and complaints they had with blasting and lighting. RS spent 2.5 hours with the residents and surveyed the damage that they claim has happened due to the blasts from the mine. AW presented a Structural Engineers report indicating that black soil and wet weather had caused the failure of the foundation. A motion was moved for RS to write a letter indicating that the matter had been discussed at a CCC meeting and the Committee was satisfied that the company was pursuing a satisfactory course of action under the circumstances.

Moved: Chris Holley. Seconded: Jill Coleman. Motion Carried.

- F) **Dust from Coal Trains** – RVK stated that the prediction for Quirindi is that the train movements would be every 20 minutes and up to 1.4 km long. RVK indicated that the matter was on the agenda of the State Government and that one of the main stakeholders, ARTC, held an environmental license number (3142) which had a pollution reduction program to investigate reducing dust emissions from the train corridor. ARTC produced a report that relied heavily on the QLD rail networks progress on the same matter. QLD trialed a spray sealant over the carriages. The carriers and the mining companies are against the covers as there is a large cost factor involved and another problem was that there is no dust monitoring occurring in the rail corridors. The criterion being set for dust emissions is over a 24 hour timeframe so there is an issue with monitoring. The ARTC report concluded that there are 4 options: Option 1. A veneer product applied to the carriage at loading at the mine. Option 2. Improved loading techniques at the mine. Option 3. Low profile train loads at the mine. Option 4. Wagon lids which is not the preferred option.

CH moved a motion that the CCC write a letter to Whitehaven Coal to recommend investigating further dust mitigation from its coal trains through a joint venture arrangement with ARTC or State Government.

Moved: Chris Holley. Seconded: Jill Coleman. Motion Carried.

- G) **Groundwater Media Interest** - AW raised that a local news crew had approach the mine and other neighbours to comment on that WCC had allegedly drained an aquifer between Taylors Lane and Paynes Road last Friday. NT stated that he had been approached by the news reporter but stated that he had no problems with his bore and in fact the level had risen. RS stated that he had also been approached for comment but could not get a straight answer from the reporter as to what the issue was for him to comment on.

- H) **Overburden Emplacement Footprint and Water Management** - RS raised that he had noted that the mine overburden dump footprint had expanded to the east towards Werris Creek Road. AW stated that this was occurring in accordance with the development consent

modification approved last year (DA 172-7-2005 MOD5). RS also noted that he had observed water runoff from dump causing some erosion and asked if the sediment dams had sufficient capacity to capture sediment laden runoff from the increasing size of the overburden emplacement. AW replied that the observed erosion near the office was designed as a "sacrificial" water drain because all the contour banks flow out at this point it was going to erode but controlled to erode only in this location. In time as the rehabilitation area is expanded the contour banks will be completed so that they will run out onto the natural surface without further erosion. AW added that the recent Surface Water study for WCC had indicated that there was sufficient sediment dam capacity to manage water runoff to the south of the site through the licensed discharge point SB2 and WCC was confident that this was the case.

Meeting Closed 11:45am.

Next Meeting was scheduled for November 2010

Copy to:

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

Colin Phillips	DoP	Casper Dieben	Werris Creek Coal
Michael Lloyd	I&I NSW	Brian Cullen	Werris Creek Coal
Ron Van Katwyk	LPSC	Danny Young	Werris Creek Coal
Cr Col Stewart	LPSC	Mick Post	Werris Creek Coal
		Des George	Werris Creek Coal
		Andrew Wright	Werris Creek Coal