

Werris Creek Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

Seventeenth Meeting of the Committee

Whitehaven Coal Training Room, Werris Creek Coal Mine

10.00am Thursday 25th November 2010

MINUTES

Community Consultative Committee met at 9:30am prior to the meeting for a pit tour of the mine site to update committee members on the progress and status of operations onsite.

1. Record of Attendance:

Present: Ron Short (Chairman); 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); Mick Post (Project Manager WCC).

Apologies: Lindsay Bridge (Community Representative).

2. New Matters for Discussion under General Business

- A. WCC Community Open Day feedback
- B. WCC Life of Mine Project Environmental Assessment Update
- C. Former Werris Creek Colliery History Update

3. Matters Arising

a) Actions from Previous Meeting

Letter to Campbell – RS tabled a copy of the CCC letter sent to Mrs. Campbell as well as two additional letters received from Mrs. Campbell. RS had to give the Campbell's a copy of the letter as they stated that it was lost in the mail. RS indicated that he still felt comfortable with position that the CCC had adopted in the letter to the Campbell's and that WCC were following the right course of action regarding this sensitive issue. The CCC reaffirmed that WCC should continue to take each complaint from the Campbell's seriously and fully investigate each issue.

Letter to George/Eslick – RS stated that the CCC letter to George/Eslick of "Hazeldene" had been sent and they had received the letter.

Letter to Managing Director of Whitehaven Coal – RS stated that the CCC letter to Tony Haggarty (TH) had been sent and AW confirmed that it had been received. AW stated that TH will respond to CCC letter in due course once WHC have confirmed a course of action regarding coal dust from rail transport issue. MP stated that TH had confirmed that the company wants to work in partnership with the other rail partners to identify and implement a solution to the issue. AW mentioned that WHC have already written to Australian Rail Track Corporation and Pacific National to commence a collaborative approach with these key organisations.

b) Other Matters Arising

WCC to attend Council 355 Committee Meeting – It is still AW's intention to get to this committee meeting but hasn't as yet. However has made contact with the Council's Economic Development Director on how WCC can be involved.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting 26th September 2010 were accepted as true representation of business conducted on day.

Moved: Chris Holley Seconded: Jill Coleman. Motion carried

5. Declaration of Pecuniary or other interests

None declared.

6. Environmental Monitoring Report August, September and October 2010

Weather Station – The weather station availability was over 99% for August and October but dropped to 79% during September because of the week long relocation to the new site on top of the overburden emplacement as previously discussed at the last CCC meeting.

Dust – Dust levels have been in compliance; however two results were contaminated at "Cintra" (project related) in September and October that had high levels of organic matter (i.e. bird droppings and insects) which are excluded from the average.

Noise – There was one noise exceedance from mining operations resulting in non-compliance recorded at "Glenara" during October. The investigation found that the exceedance was minor (only 1dB(A)) and short in duration. DECCW and DoP were notified of the exceedance with DECCW accepting that the non-compliance was minor and being appropriately managed with continuous noise monitoring and negotiation with the property owner.

Blasting – A total of 25 blasts were fired during the period with no exceedances recorded.

Groundwater – Groundwater level monitoring has observed that levels have rapidly risen following good recharge from heavy winter rains.

Surface water - There were 4 discharge events, 3 due to rainfall and 1 controlled discharge that were all within the criteria specified in the Environmental Protection License conditions.

Complaints – There were 9 complaints for the period with four complaints regarding lighting, three complaints regarding blasting, two complaints about dust and one complaint regarding noise.

Actions taken regarding lighting complaints have been to investigate and audit lighting locations. Proactive management strategies have been toolbox talked to all operators responsible for lighting plant set up on the location of Werris Creek township and how to orientate lights to the west away from residences.

Action taken regarding blasting complaints to date have included continued monitoring on the southern edge of Werris Creek township and to include in the local newsletter "Werris Creek Flyer" weekly notification of blasting times.

Action taken regarding dust complaints have been to continue implementing standard onsite processes ensuring that water carts are available and in use on trafficked roads and where necessary, suspending operations. The Environmental Officer routinely inspects the mine perimeter for evidence of point source emissions but on the specific day of the two complaints it appears that minimal winds prevailed for a number days consecutively preventing the Quipolly Creek valley from "being flushed" resulting in dust levels accumulating creating hazy conditions on that day.

No additional action was taken regarding the noise complaint due to the delayed reporting and general nature however the complainant was made aware of the additional measures being implemented by the mine such as continuous noise monitoring to address noise issues offsite.

Motion moved to accept the Environmental Monitoring Report August to October 2010.

Moved: Jill Coleman. Seconded: Col Stewart. Motion Carried.

7. General Business

A. WCC Community Open Day feedback

A number of CCC members expressed that they had heard only positive feedback regarding the open day held by WCC at the Werris Creek Bowling and Tennis Club on 20th October. Most of the comments from people were around being impressed with the mine tour. Over 150 people attended the day.

B. WCC Life of Mine Project Environmental Assessment Update

RVK explained that he had submitted the Councils response to the Environmental Assessment. AW explained that once WCC had adequately responded to each agency submissions, then the DoP will place the final EA on public exhibition with the company aiming for 15th December. A copy of the EA will be available from that date.

C. Former Werris Creek Colliery History Update

All CCC members received a copy of the draft "History of Coal Mining at Werris Creek" and were generally happy with the format. The CCC decided to leave finalizing the document until the next meeting to allow people time to investigate further stories to be incorporated into the document. Once finalised, WCC has offered to have the document professionally designed and published so that local organizations such as the Railway Museum could on-sell if the committee wanted. NT said that he had spoken to Tony O'Donnell (former owner of Narrawolga) who had great knowledge of the former underground mine but he was not willing to talk to WCC about it. RS said that he will see if Tony will speak to him.

Meeting Closed 11:00am.

Next Meeting was scheduled for 24th February 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