

Minutes of Rocglen Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee – Meeting #10

Meeting Held: Wednesday 10th November 2010

Venue: The meeting held at Rocglen Coal Mine Training Room

Commencement Time: 3:00pm

1. Present and Apologies

Present: Mr John Sturgess (Chairman)
Mrs Pam Burns (Community Rep)
Mr Rod Barnes (Community Rep)
Mr Warren Nicholls (Community Rep)
Mr Tony Heinrich (Project Manager)
Mr Tim Muldoon (Community Liaison Officer - Whitehaven)
Mr Danny Young (Environmental Manager – Whitehaven)
Miss Jill Scealy (Environmental Officer – Whitehaven)

Apologies: Cllr Colleen Fuller (Gunnedah Shire Rep)

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record on the motion of Mrs Pam Burns and Mr Warren Nicholls.

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

3.1. Danny Young advised that the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was submitted to the Department of Planning (DoP) for adequacy assessment in late August/early September 2010. The EA was also issued to relevant government agencies for review with their comments provided to DoP for consideration.

The main issues identified at this stage are:

- Biodiversity offset;
- Geotechnical issues in relation to the close proximity of the final void to Wean Road; and
- Avoidance of potential groundwater inflows into the final void.

The EA will hopefully be on public exhibition by Christmas and will not be issued for public exhibition until the DoP agrees with all changes proposed by Whitehaven.

3.2. "Do Not Litter" signs have been installed on Wean Road.

3.3. Tim Muldoon advised that the Regional Resource and Energy Community Discussion Day had been cancelled following initial

concerns from Council about poor publicity after discussion with key farming groups. Subsequent to that, BHP Carona, Shenhua Watermark and Santos advised that they would no longer be participating. Whitehaven remained committed to the event as we believed it was beneficial for the community. However, as all other stakeholders had pulled out, the event was cancelled.

- 3.4. John Molloy advised that the possible installation of hardstand bays along the haul route has been postponed due to ongoing wet weather and the priority to relocate the depot. John will discuss the hardstand bays with Council and provide an update at the next CCC meeting.
- 3.5. Tony Heinrich investigated the claim that operations were occurring on Sundays and identified that a contractor had been repairing a piece of equipment on a Sunday and then decided to spread some topsoil to allow it to dry out for proposed operations on the Monday. The contractor has been advised that no operations apart from maintenance are to occur on Sundays.
- 3.6. Danny Young advised that attended noise monitoring had been undertaken at the "Penryn" property following concerns raised by the resident. Monitoring was conducted on the 21st September 2010 with all recorded noise levels within compliance limits. Danny advised that he'd had discussions with the residents about the possible temporary use (ie. ~1 week) of a real time noise monitor at the property to gain a better understanding of the ongoing noise levels. Danny also suggested to Rod Barnes that the real time noise monitor could be trialled at his property as well if he is interested.

The monitor has audio playback capabilities to allow determination of noise sources as well as an alarm system to alert the mine when noise levels are approaching the consent criteria, thereby allowing modification of operations to reduce noise levels.

Tony Heinrich asked Warren Nicholls about the noise levels at his residence. Warren Nicholls advised that it's sometimes louder than other times but as a general rule the noise level is acceptable. Warren said he didn't believe a real time noise monitor would register much noise at his property. He indicated that the main noise source is the revs from truck engines when they're dumping.

4. Mine Progress Report

Tony Heinrich advised that over the past 3 months approximately 1.9 million BCM of overburden was moved and 324,000 tonnes of coal was mined. The current strip ratio is approximately 6:1.

5. Review of Environmental Performance

Danny Young presented the environmental monitoring results which are attached in the associated environmental monitoring report.

Warren Nicholls noted that he had seen the nursery at the CHPP and the established trees on the entrance and requested advice on how to grow his own trees. Danny Young said that he would discuss the setup with Warren.

6. Complaints/Complaints Hotline

Complaints were discussed in the Environment Monitoring Report.

7. General Business

- 7.1. Rod Barnes raised concern that the height of the waste emplacement was increasing. Tony Heinrich confirmed that it has not increased in height since the last meeting but it has moved in a southerly direction so it may appear to be increasing in height. Tony reiterated that we are still permitted to go up an extra 20m to correspond with the highest point in the adjacent State Forest (marked by a survey peg which is at 330mRL or 330m above sea level).

Tony drew a diagram showing how the lower and upper batters extend to a pre-determined point (with steep slopes) and are then battered back to provide for a more subtle slope. Once the waste emplacement has been battered back, it will be covered with soil and planted out with grasses and trees.

- 7.2. Rod Barnes asked whether the trees along each side of Wean Road will be removed as part of the extension. Tony Heinrich and Danny Young explained that the trees will be removed however this process was part of the initial approval.

Rod believes the trees are stopping some of the dust from the mine and he is concerned about the amount of dust at his property once the trees are removed. Tony Heinrich commented that the trees might also be filtering some of the dust from the unsealed section of Wean Road as it is quite a dusty road. Danny Young said that he is happy to discuss some options with Rod to offset the removal of the trees.

Pam Burns asked when the Wean Road deviation will occur. Tony Heinrich stated that Whitehaven is awaiting Council approval however the deviation is expected to commence late this year or early next year. The trees along the existing Wean Road will not be removed for approximately 12 months (when the pit advances into this area).

- 7.3. Warren Nicholls asked how long it will take until work ceases at the southern end of the waste emplacement and rehabilitation commences. Tony Heinrich advised that he expects dumping to carry on for approximately 6 weeks and then dozer work will commence for reshaping of the overburden dump depending on availability of the dozer.

- 7.4. Warren Nicholls commented that the installation of the "Do Not Litter" signs was a good thing.

- 7.5. Warren Nicholls referred to the recent advertisement in the paper requesting expressions of interest (EOI) from Aboriginal groups in relation to the proposed Tarrawonga extension and Bluevale/Vickery operation. Danny Young explained that the intention of the advertisement was not to show a large area of inspection but rather to show both operations in one ad and to provide context. Requesting EOI is required by legislation.

The Tarrawonga extension EA will commence over the next 12 months with expected approval in approximately 2 ½ years. The Bluevale operation is only in the early stages with Tarrawonga being more critical. A lot of what happens at Bluevale is dependent on Tarrawonga and the CHPP capacity.

Warren Nicholls asked if residents surrounding Rocglen could expect any impacts from the Bluevale operation. Danny Young said it didn't believe so as the mine is on the other side of Bluevale Road and the ridge.

Tony Heinrich noted that the proposed Coalworks operations would be much closer than the Bluevale site.

A figure identifying the location of all current and proposed operations was referred to in order to provide context.

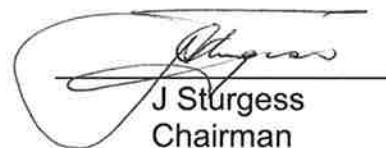
Tim Muldoon advised that Whitehaven only intends to access Company owned property and would not be accessing any privately owned land to conduct Aboriginal surveys.

- 7.6. Jill Scealy tabled a letter from Gunnedah Shire Council advising that Cllr Colleen Fuller had been re-appointed as the Council's delegate on the Rocglen CCC.
- 7.7. Jill Scealy tabled the 2009-2010 Annual Environmental Management Report for the information of the Committee. The report will be available from John Sturgess.
- 7.8. Tim Muldoon noted an action from the Tarrawonga CCC meeting to approach Gunnedah Shire Council for consideration of changed traffic management on the Kamilaroi Highway.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Rocglen CCC is scheduled for Wednesday 9th February 2011.

Meeting closed 3:58pm



J Sturgess
Chairman