

# **Minutes of Whitehaven Coal Mine Community Consultation Committee**

**Meeting Held:** Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at 3:45pm

**Venue:** The meeting held at Whitehaven Coal Mine Training Room

## **1. Present and Apologies**

**Present:** Hans Allgayer (Chairman)  
Clr Ken Bates (Narrabri Shire Rep)  
Mrs Kellie Fletcher (Community Rep)  
Mrs Helen Cruickshank (Community Rep)  
Mr Chris Burgess (Group Manager New Projects)  
Mr Danny Young (Environmental Manager – Whitehaven)

**Apologies:** Mr Bob McGregor (Community Rep)  
Mr Brett Stonestreet (Gunnedah Council Rep)

## **2. Previous Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting of Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2006 were read and accepted as a true record. Moved by Chris Burgess. Seconded by Hans Allgayer.

### **2.1 Business Arising**

#### **2.1.1 Signage and Visibility**

Final road signage as required on the haul road from Whitehaven to Tarrawonga was completed soon after the previous meeting.

#### **2.1.2 Coal Transportation**

Chris Burgess advised that Toll Resources is the new haulage contractor and is in the process of acquiring purpose built trucks and trailers for coal haulage. The new trucks are much quieter, are GPS tracked and are speed limited to 93km hour which is at their most efficient running speed. As additional new trucks come on line, the older sub-contract carriers will be removed from the operation. All trucks are now numbered to enable easy identification.

### **2.1.3 Hoad Lane**

The issue of dust from Hoad Lane was raised again, with Rodney Mitchell from "Merton" requesting a hearing at the meeting in relation to dust. Mr Mitchell was advised by the Chair that the Whitehaven CCC was not able to consider the matter of public use of a Council maintained road, and that it would need to be raised with Narrabri Shire Council. It was suggested to Mr Mitchell that he lobby Council to place traffic counters on Hoad Lane to quantify traffic numbers which would add merit to his argument.

### **2.1.4 Private Haul Road**

Private vehicles continue to use the Whitehaven-Tarrawonga private haul roads. The haul road is signposted as being private. The issue of insurance cover and liability in terms of public use of the road was raised, however Whitehaven is unable to continually police its use.

## **3.0 General Business**

### **3.1 Mine Progress**

Chris Burgess advised the meeting of his new title and position as General Manager-New Projects.

Whitehaven is currently producing approximately 60,000 tonnes of coal per month and continues to operate on a 2 shift basis. The mine has progressed into the Canyon area and it is expected that production at Whitehaven will cease around October 2008.

The Environmental Assessment for the Belmont Project is expected to go on exhibition over the coming weeks, with Belmont to become the replacement for the Whitehaven operation. The company intends to move equipment and personnel from the Whitehaven operation across to Belmont to ensure limited impact on staff. The infrastructure currently located on the Whitehaven site will also be transported to the Belmont operation.

On completion of production at Whitehaven mine, it will revert to a care and maintenance situation which will enable rehabilitation completion and ongoing monitoring.

### **3.2 Environmental Monitoring Results**

Environmental Manager, Danny Young, tabled the Environmental Monitoring report for the period November 2006 to September 2007. Results were generally within confined limits apart from a single blast exceedance on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006. Discussions were held with 'Gundawarra' following this exceedance with all blasts since being within required guidelines.

All dust monitors remain within annual average limits. Monitors at D15 and D16 have recorded higher than expected results, however, these have been the result of sample contamination from bird droppings and insects. It is expected that the monitors will remain within required limits.

There were 2 surface water discharge events during the period, with one sample returning a slightly elevated reading for total suspended solids. This was likely the result of extended dry periods prior to the rainfall event resulting in increased sediment loads. As the discharge point is some 500m from the Driggle Draggie Creek, further dispersion of sediment would have occurred prior to entry to the creek system.

Rehabilitation has progressed over an additional 28 hectares. Cover crop establishment failed over one area of rehab due to a lack of follow up rain. This will be resown when conditions allow. Approximately 1500 seedlings have been planted since the last meeting.

### **4.0 New Business**

No new business tabled.

### **5.0 Complaints**

Four complaints were received since the last meeting.

- 5.1** Complaint received on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2006 in relation to fading of outside line markings on Blue Vale Road. This issue was addressed and lines repainted as required.
- 5.2** Complaint was made to the EPA on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007 concerning coal spillage from trucks en-route to the washplant. The matter was raised with John Molloy from Toll Resources to ensure all trucks have adequate tarps to cover loads appropriately.
- 5.3** Complaint was made from the Blue Vale Road School Bus Operator on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007 in relation to a coal truck pulling out in front on the Bus on Hoad Lane intersection. The matter

was raised with Toll who investigated the incident and the truck driver involved was subsequently suspended and dismissed. A communication procedure has now been developed between the truck drivers and the bus driver so trucks are aware of the position of the bus on Hoad Lane.

- 5.4** A complaint was received from "Gundawarra" on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2007 relating to a blast on that day. On investigation the blast was found to be within compliance limits. It was suggested to 'Gundawarra' that it would have appeared bigger than previous blasts as it occurred on the eastern side of the Canyon, as opposed to previous blasts which had been further to the west.

## **6.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at the Whitehaven Coal Mine Training Room on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 3:30pm

Meeting closed at 4:40pm

  
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Hans Allgayer - Chairman  
24 / 10 / 2007