

# Minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Tarrawonga Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

**Meeting Held:** 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at 10:00am

**Venue:** Tarrawonga Coal Mine, Training Room

## 1. Present and Apologies

**Present:** Clr Ken Bates (Narrabri Shire Rep), Chairman  
Mr Danny Young (Environmental Manager)  
Mr Jason Conomos (Project Manager)  
Miss Jill Scealy (Environmental Officer)  
Mr Sandy Bull (Community Rep)  
Mr Bob McGregor (Community Rep)  
Mr Bart Crosby (Community Rep)  
Mr John Molloy (Visitor - Toll Project Manager)  
Mr Tony Jones (Community Liaison Officer)  
Mr Tim Muldoon (Community Liaison Officer)

**Apologies:** Mr Casper Dieben (General Manager – Operations)  
Mr Brian Cullen (General Manager – Technical Services)  
Clr Colleen Fuller (Gunnedah Shire Rep)

## 2. Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true record on the motion of Sandy Bull and Jason Conomos on the basis of the following amendments:

- Section 5.1 – Members of the Committee indicated that they do not want the stop signs on the haul road converted to give way signs. The minutes shall be amended to specify that the Committee does not wish to investigate options for the stop signs to be converted to give way signs.
- Section 5.2 – Members of the Committee requested that the wording in this section be changed to specify that the rear dump truck was driven on the public road, rather than transported.

## 3. Business Arising

**3.1** John Molloy (Toll) provided an update on the progress of truck washing options. Mr Molloy indicated that he was having difficulty sourcing a truck washing contractor and committed to providing an update for the next CCC meeting. Mr Molloy stated that the trucks would be washed at the Toll depot on mats that collect the waste and can be disposed of offsite.

- 3.2** The Blue Vale Road to the south of the Canyon turnoff is currently being upgraded. Sandy Bull questioned why the design did not include pipes under the road to drain the water away. Tony Jones stated that the upgrade had been designed by Gunnedah Shire Council and approved by Narrabri Shire Council. Jason Conomos also stated that the Narrabri Shire Council had previously requested Tarrawonga Coal to remove pipes that had been installed under the road at the entrance to the mine.

John Molloy asked why the traffic lights at the roadworks had such a long delay. Tony Jones indicated that he would ask the Council about the delay.

- 3.3** The Committee agreed that they do not want the stop signs changed to give way signs, as specified in Section 2 above.

- 3.4** All Whitehaven sites were emailed immediately following the last CCC meeting with regard to the use of flashing lights on public roads. Signs reminding drivers to turn off their flashing lights have been ordered and will be installed at each site by mid May 2010.

Bart Crosby suggested that the Stripes delivery drivers repeatedly fail to turn their flashing lights off. Jill Scealy committed to contacting Stripes to make their employees aware of this issue.

- 3.5** Danny Young provided an update on the proposed Tarrawonga modification. The modification application has been lodged with the Department of Planning and is on public exhibition until the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010. The Environmental Assessment (EA) has been provided to all landholders surrounding the mine.

Bart Crosby asked whether the Canyon coal hub was included in the EA. Danny Young indicated that approval for the coal hub will be sought under a different process which is co-ordinated through the Narrabri Shire Council. Danny Young suggested that whilst it is co-ordinated through the Council all relevant Government departments will be consulted.

John Molloy asked what a “coal hub” was. Danny Young explained that all domestic coal will be loaded out of the Canyon site. Bart Crosby questioned why the crushing and loading process would happen at Canyon rather than Tarrawonga. Danny Young suggested that it is a logistical issue at Tarrawonga as areas for additional stockpiling are not available.

Some members of the Committee asked whether additional truck movements would be required based on the proposed

Canyon coal hub. Danny Young indicated that there would be no additional coal extracted to service the hub as the domestic coal will come from the existing capacity. Tarrawonga representatives and John Molloy suggested that the traffic movements would be better managed as the transport of domestic coal from Tarrawonga would be serviced by Toll rather than various other contractors.

Bart Crosby asked about the opinions of the landholders surrounding the proposed coal hub. Danny Young said that the application has not been lodged yet and that community consultation would occur during development of the application.

**3.6** Ken Bates stated that the current condition of the dirt section of Manilla Road (not on the haul route) is “not too bad”. Clr Bates indicated that the Mining Related Councils meeting regarding re-injection of royalties into mining communities would be held in the week following the CCC meeting. Clr Bates to provide an update at the next CCC meeting.

**3.7** Ken Bates indicated that the 90 second separation distance between Toll trucks has improved but is still an issue at times, in particular when leaving the depot. John Molloy said that Tarrawonga trucks are separated by 90 seconds when leaving the depot, however trucks hauling from other sites may leave the depot in the 90 seconds between two Tarrawonga trucks. Mr Molloy committed to reminding drivers of the separation distance requirement.

## **4.0 General Business**

### **4.1 Mine Progress**

The Project Manager, Jason Conomos, reported as follows:

3.4 million BCM overburden removed  
415,000 tonnes of coal recovered

Mr Conomos noted the major milestone achieved in April 2010 of 5 million tonnes of coal extracted since commencement in September 2006.

Mr Conomos provided details on the rehabilitation undertaken to date, as follows:

18.3 ha (rehabilitated and under maintenance)  
13.82 ha (cover crop)  
11.5 ha (topsoiled, not seeded)  
9.4 ha (shaped, not soiled)

## **4.2 Environmental Monitoring Results**

Danny Young presented the environmental monitoring results which are attached in the associated Environmental Monitoring Report.

Bart Crosby reiterated that Toll Truck T08 did not have the rear trailer tarp extended when it drove past his property, despite Danny Young observing the truck near the Rocglen turnoff with the tarp extended and subsequently confirming with the driver that he had manually extended the tarp before leaving Tarrawonga.

## **5.0 New Business**

**5.1** John Molloy indicated that he would like to seek approval from Council to install approximately four hardstand bays along Blue Vale Road to allow the drivers to safely pull off the road for their scheduled breaks. Mr Molloy also noted that the bays would benefit all drivers, especially with the number of wide loads that travel on the road. Committee members did not express any objections to the suggestion.

**5.2** Tim Muldoon mentioned a resources forum to be held in Gunnedah on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010. The forum is free and will be an all day event that will incorporate gas companies, coal mining companies, planning and infrastructure representatives and community members. Mr Muldoon indicated that the forum would be advertised and further details would be provided and the next CCC meeting.

**5.3** Ken Bates questioned John Molloy and Jason Conomos about employment. John Molloy said that Toll is currently advertising for one mechanic and are currently fully resourced with truck drivers. Jason Conomos said Tarrawonga is basically fully resourced, with a couple of positions to be filled in the future. Mr Conomos stated that over 900 applications had been received for the last round of positions that were advertised. Mr Conomos said that of the 16 people employed, approximately 70% had moved to Gunnedah for the positions.

## **6.0 Complaints**

There were no complaints recorded on the complaints hot line. Complaints received via DECCW, the Tarrawonga site office or the Environmental Manager were discussed in the Environmental Monitoring Report.

## 7.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Tarrawonga Coal Mine Training Room on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010 at 10:00am.

Meeting closed at 11:10 am.

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Ken Bates - Chairman