

Minutes of the 18th Meeting of the Tarrawonga Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

Meeting Held: 11th August 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 Peter Laird (Community Rep)
Mr Tim Muldoon (Community Liaison Officer)
Clr Colleen Fuller (Gunnedah Shire Rep)

Apologies: Mr Casper Dieben (General Manager – Operations)
Mr Brian Cullen (General Manager – Technical Services)

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true record on the motion of Sandy Bull and Colleen Fuller.

3. Business Arising

3.1 Danny Young provided an update on the truck washing options following a conversation with John Molloy (Project Manager, Toll). Toll operators are currently washing trucks at the depot and Toll is in discussions with truck washing contractor, Typhoon.

Sandy Bull stated that he had viewed a large piece of coal on the outside of a truck at the Blue Vale Road/Boggabri Road intersection.

Bart Crosby questioned Toll's policy of not replacing windscreens that are damaged and stated that a person is responsible for anything that falls off their vehicle.

3.2 The upgrade of the section of Blue Vale Road to the south of the Canyon Mine turnoff has been completed. Tim Muldoon

commented on the previous concern about the long delay at the traffic lights noting that Tony Jones raised the issue with the roadworks contractors. The delay was reduced but couldn't be reduced too much due to safety requirements.

Bart Crosby said the delay at the current roadworks is much better.

- 3.3** Signs requesting that people turn off their flashing lights have been installed at each mine site. Following Bart Crosby's comment at the last CCC meeting that Stripes Assets consistently leave their flashing lights on, Jill Scealy contacted Stripes directly and advised that the lights should be turned off on public roads. Bart Crosby confirmed that Stripes have improved since the last meeting.
- 3.4** Danny Young provided an update on the proposed Tarrawonga modification. The modification application is still with the Department of Planning and no formal response regarding their determination has been received. No further information available at this time.
- 3.5** Clr Ken Bates provided an update about the meeting of Mining Related Councils regarding re-injection of royalties into mining communities. A meeting has been held and another meeting will be held on Friday 13th September 2010 to discuss the outcomes. A committee has been formed and they are still in negotiations. Clr Bates will provide an update at the next meeting. Clr Colleen Fuller commented that positive outcomes had resulted at the meeting with different councils working together.
- 3.6** 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 at the afternoon shift change.

A motion was moved by Colleen Fuller and seconded by Bart Crosby to write a letter to John Molloy (Project Manager, Toll Resources) regarding the ongoing concern about separation distances. It was agreed that John Molloy would be the first point of contact and if there isn't an improvement the Committee will take it further.
- 3.7** Danny Young provided an update on the proposed hardstand bays along Blue Vale Road. Toll has postponed installation of the bays because of the road works and recent poor weather. Sandy Bull commented that he sees the trucks stopping more regularly than they used to.
- 3.8** Tim Muldoon provided an update on the Regional Resource and Energy Community Discussion Day and tabled a brochure which

outlines the agenda and includes a registration form. The free forum, to be held on the 9th September 2010, is for educational and awareness purposes with the hope that some of the community's concerns about mining are allayed.

Clr Bates stated that he will not be able to attend and that he thinks at least one member of the CCC should attend. Clr Fuller urged everyone to attend as it's a free forum that everyone will benefit from.

4.0 General Business

4.1 Mine Progress

The Project Manager, Jason Conomos, reported May-July 2010 production results as follows:

4.2 million BCM overburden removed
440,000 tonnes of coal recovered

Bart Crosby asked whether production was on target and how many wet days had impacted on the mine. Jason Conomos indicated that the mine was basically on target. He was unable to recall the number of wet days for the last 3 months however 6 full days of production (when lost digger hours were combined) were lost during July.

Mr Conomos stated that rehabilitation undertaken to date had not changed since the last meeting as the mine is waiting for the modification approval.

Mr Conomos noted a major milestone of 502 LTI (lost time injury) days until the end of June 2010. There haven't been any lost time injuries since, however LTI targets are generally every 250 days.

4.2 Environmental Monitoring Results

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

Sandy Bull commented about a significant blast on Monday 9th August 2010 that shook his house. Bart Crosby confirmed that the blast appeared to be more significant than other shots. Danny Young said that the blast monitoring results indicated compliance.

Bart Crosby noted that the trees planted along the haul road were going well.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Sandy Bull asked whether the EPA had expressed any concern about the coal dust along the haul road from the CHPP. Danny Young indicated that DECCW had raised concern about the dust during recent inspections but no-one was able to provide a practical solution. Danny Young noted that the dust is particularly hard to manage during the ongoing wet weather.

5.2 The Committee raised concern about various aspects of the current roadworks along the haul route, as follows:

5.2.1 Clr Bates noted that the 60km/h and 100km/h speed signs on the Kamilaroi Highway are spaced incorrectly resulting in traffic travelling in opposite directions at different speeds. Clr Fuller commented that she has raised concern about this in the past and that Clr Fuller and Clr Bates had discussed the issue previously. Clr Fuller stated that she would follow up again with Council at a meeting to be held that afternoon.

5.2.2 Bart Crosby stated that the new painted line on the Kamilaroi Highway to show the temporary lane diversion was difficult to see. The Committee in general discussed safety concerns relating to the highway intersection upgrade.

5.2.3 Bart Crosby stated that the safety barricading on the current section of roadworks (south of the Rocglen turnoff) is inadequate and noted that only one safety cone (witch's hat) was used to indicate the ~300mm drop off where the road had been dug out.

5.2.4 Sandy Bull commented that repairing potholes with the spray mechanism on the Council truck is a waste of time because the spray arm is too far away from the road and the gravel needs to be packed in with a shovel.

5.2.5 Bart Crosby discussed the number of potholes on the southbound lane (ie. the lane that loaded trucks travel on) and that trucks veer onto the other side of the road to miss the holes.

5.2.6 Peter Laird reiterated that the potholes are dangerous and mentioned that he was unable to slow down through a section with a number of potholes because he had a Toll truck behind him.

5.2.7 Bob McGregor commented that it would be difficult to maintain the road with the recent weather conditions.

Danny Young committed to contacting Wayne Kerr at Gunnedah Shire Council to discuss the issues raised at the meeting.

5.3 Clr Bates questioned the domestic coal hub at the Canyon Mine. Danny Young advised that Whitehaven had recently determined

to withdraw the application for a domestic coal hub at Canyon on the basis of domestic coal operations being undertaken at Tarrawonga. This was identified as a temporary arrangement in the current modification EA with the Department of Planning and will be identified as a permanent feature in future life of mine planning arrangements.

Bart Crosby questioned the current arrangements for domestic coal transport and whether the truck movements are monitored. Danny Young indicated that they travel along the haul route but as private contract trucks, are not as easily monitored as Toll trucking. Quantities of domestic coal and number of truck movements are monitored from sales inventories. Jason Conomos noted that some trucks travel to Narrabri. Bart Crosby and Sandy Bull raised concern about the weight limit on the Iron Bridge near Boggabri. Clr Bates confirmed that the weight limit had been lifted to 42.5t.

Members of the Committee discussed the state of Boston Bridge in Boggabri. It was agreed that any issues with the bridge are a concern for the Narrabri Shire Council rather than the Tarrawonga CCC.

- 5.4** Clr Bates tabled the 2009-2010 Tarrawonga Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR) that had been issued for the information of the CCC members. Danny Young stated that the AEMR review and site visit by I&I, DECCW and GSC representatives had been conducted in mid July with positive feedback, including commendation from I&I for the workshop upgrades and improved waste segregation.

Clr Fuller congratulated Whitehaven on their rehabilitation efforts and noted that Namoi Community Conservation Area Consultative Committee is impressed with the Company's rehabilitation efforts. Clr Fuller stated that she has been involved in mine site tours with sceptical groups that had been impressed with the rehabilitation efforts.

Clr Bates stated that positive comments about mining companies should be publicised to improve community perceptions of mining.

- 5.5** Sandy Bull raised concern about the sunken ramp on the haul road and noted that Whitehaven had indicated that it would be repaired approximately 12 months ago. Danny Young stated that he would investigate when the sunken ramps would be fixed.
- 5.6** Bart Crosby noted that Gunnedah Shire Council (GSC) gravel trucks were travelling on Manilla Road at 6am. It was agreed that this was a Council issue.

5.7 Sandy Bull and Bart Crosby commented that drivers in contractor trucks continue to use their exhaust brakes.

6.0 Complaints

There were no complaints recorded on the complaints hot line. One complaint received via the Environmental Manager was 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 10th November 2010 at 10:00am.

Meeting closed at 11:00 am.

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Ken Bates - Chairman