

Minutes of Inaugural Meeting of the Tarrawonga Coal Mine Community Consultation Committee

Meeting Held: Thursday 4 May 2006 at 3:30pm

Venue: Whitehaven Coal Mining office
125 Merton Street, Boggabri

Present: Clr. Ken Bates (Narrabri Shire Rep.) Chairman
Clr. Colleen Fuller (Gunnedah Shire Rep.)
Mr. Sandy Bull (Community Rep.)
Mr. Bart Crosby (Community Rep.)
Mr. Bob McGregor (Community Rep.)
Mr. Peter Laird (Community Rep.)
Mr. Mathew Laird (Alternate member)
Mr. Chris Burgess (Area Manager – Tarrawonga Mine)
Mr. Tony Jones (Community Liaison Officer – Tarrawonga Mine)
Mr. Alex Irwin (Environmentalist – R.W.Corkery & Co.)

Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr. Colin Phillips and Mr. Bob Corbett

1. Introduction / Welcome

The Area Manager, Mr. Chris Burgess, welcomed the committee members and explained that the Consent for the Tarrawonga Mine required the formation of the committee and that the Company was very committed to the concept and would do its utmost to ensure that the members were kept informed.

He further pointed out that the members had access to the Company and its staff at all times to discuss problems raised with them and that the Company would do all it could to resolve such problems.

2. Role of Committee Members

Chairman, Clr. Ken Bates, outlined the role of committee members and pointed out that they were the contacts and liaison for the public. It was not the role of the committee to actively canvas the public and seek complaints but to bring any concerns raised with them to the committee. He pointed out that such complaints or concerns did not have to wait until a committee meeting but could be taken up with the Company directly.

Clr. Bates further advised that the public had access to a complaints hot line and that committee members were the conduit for personal concerns of the community.

Area Manager, Chris Burgess, pointed out the committee was responsible for monitoring the environmental performance of the mine.

Mr. Mathew Laird enquired as to the mechanics of the environmental monitoring and was advised that an audit will be conducted every 3 years of environmental compliance as part of the consent conditions.

Mr. Burgess advised that a mine web site was in the process of being established.

3. Format and Frequency of Meetings

Mr. Burgess advised that meetings had to be held at least four times each year as a minimum, but could be held more frequently if required. Minutes of the meetings would be circulated to members and would be presented for confirmation at the next meeting.

Mr. Peter Laird enquired as to the confidentiality or otherwise of those minutes and was advised that they were a public document.

Mr. Burgess suggested that by the next meeting the mine would be operating and that it would be appropriate to commence the meeting at Whitehaven and inspect an operating mine and then proceed along the new haul road to view work at Tarrawonga Mine. The committee agreed with this proposal.

4. Review of Consent Conditions and Environmental Management Systems

Mr. Burgess advised that actual mining could not commence until all consent conditions were complied with and the required management plans were completed and approved.

The Bushfire Management Plan is being prepared following consultation with Boggabri No: 1 Brigade and the Nandewar Brigade. Further to that the mine is required to have a Fire Control System in place on site under the C.M.R.A. and Regulations.

The mine is required to train its staff in fire control. The mine will also have a water tanker available to assist in fighting fire. The tanker will be equipped with a water cannon.

The Flora / Fauna Management Plans are being completed. The Groundwater Contingency Strategy is being developed in consultation with Peter Sinclair Dept of Natural Resources.

Mr. Burgess outlined the proposals for location of piezometers and the procedures for monitoring them.

5. General Business

5.1 Dust Monitoring

Mr. Peter Laird enquired as to where analysis of dust monitors is done and Mr. Burgess advised Ecowise Environmental did them in Mudgee.

Mr. Mathew Laird asked if he could have copies of the test results and Mr. Burgess advised he would make them available to him. He advised Mr. Laird that it was intended to install a high volume sampler on his property "Templemore".

5.2 Complaints

Mr. Burgess advised that the complaints hot line is operational on 0429 497730 and that there had been 3 complaints since 15/2/06. Two of those complaints had in fact referred to the operation of contractors to Idemitsu Boggabri Coal Project. Both of these complaints have been resolved. The other complaint concerned the removal of a number of trees on the Boggabri / Manilla Road.

The trees had been removed as a safety measure to ensure that traffic on the Boggabri / Manilla Road was not endangered. Part of the complaint related to the fact that the trees had to be left where they fell as harbour for fauna. It was considered that they constituted a hazard to motorists on what would become a high-speed road when it was constructed and sealed.

It was resolved that the Company would attempt to obtain permission to move the stumps and branches to render the road safer for traffic.

5.3 General Discussion

Mr. Peter Laird raised concerns that trucks were not giving way to traffic on Whitehaven Lane and Goonbri Road. The issue is to be raised with the Project Manager, Wayne Parkes, to establish the rules and to ensure that the rules are adhered to.

It was advised that the Whitehaven Community Consultative Committee had determined that stop signs were to be re-instated at the mine entrance road.

Mr. Bob McGregor raised concerns that a mitre drain at Gins Gully could have the effect of re-directing storm water with detrimental effect further down the road. It was agreed that they should be filled in.

5.4 Environmental Performance

Mr. Burgess advised that the initial road noise monitoring has been completed but until haulage of coal commenced no real data could be assessed.

He pointed out that information share arrangements are in place with Idemitsu Boggabri Coal for the meteorological station, dust and water monitoring points.

Mr. Peter Laird raised concerns about the bund and overburden emplacement, which could be viewed from his property. Mr. Burgess advised that it could be up to 4 years before the particular bunds and emplacements were constructed.

Mr. Burgess outlined the contractual arrangements for the mine and advised that the initial work up to the ramp and box cut would be carried out by the Company itself which would invest a large amount of funding in plant and equipment.

5.5 Coal Transportation

No coal is being transport at this time.

5.6 Mining Lease

Mr. Burgess advised that the lease has been issued and signed by the Minister and that the Mine Operations Plan is lodged with the Dept. Primary Industries - Mineral Resources.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at Whitehaven Mine and will then proceed along the haul road to Tarrowonga Mine. Date 3rd August 2006 at 2:00pm.

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Ken Bates - Chairman