

Minutes of the 23rd Meeting of the Tarrawonga Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee

Meeting Held: 16th November 2011, 10am

Venue: Tarrawonga Coal Mine, Training Room

1.0 Present and Apologies

Present: Clr Ken Bates (Narrabri Shire Rep), Chairman
Mr Danny Young (Environmental Manager)
Clr Colleen Fuller (Gunnedah Shire Rep)
Mrs Jill Johnson (Environmental Officer)
Mr Jason Conomos (Project Manager)
Mr Bart Crosby (Community Rep)

Apologies: Mr Sandy Bull (Community Rep)
Mr Tim Muldoon (Community Liaison Officer)

2.0 Previous Minutes

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

3.0 Business Arising

- 3.1 Danny Young advised that the Information Day for the proposed LOM extension had been held on the 7th October 2011 with approximately 40 attendees. A full bus load participated in the first mine tour and only a couple of people were present for the second tour so a vehicle was used for the second tour. Whitehaven believes that the day was well received.

In terms of progress of the LOM project, meetings have been held with a number of government agencies to discuss the project. The Environmental Assessment (EA) was lodged with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DoPI) on the 14th November 2011 for adequacy review. DoPI will assess the EA to determine if it meets the requirements of the Director General's Requirements (DGR) that were issued at the commencement of the project. If the DGRs are not met, DoPI will return the EA to Whitehaven for amendment. If they are met, the EA will go on public exhibition. Whitehaven is not sure on the date of exhibition given the Christmas period. It may either be exhibited for a longer period over Christmas or exhibited in the new year.

- 3.2 Ken Bates advised that Mining Related Councils are going to continue to push for funding. Update to be provided at the next meeting.
- 3.3 Ken Bates advised that it had been decided to leave the CCC meetings as they currently are rather than combining Tarrawonga and Boggabri Coal once a year.

- 3.4 Jill Johnson advised that Sandy Bull and Bart Crosby were notified of the intention to haul gravel on a Sunday in order to provide gravel to the Boggabri Go Cart Club. Jason Conomos said that Toll b-doubles were used with the haul route being Goonbri Road, Leards Forest Road and the Boggabri Coal private haul route. A water truck was used on the unsealed roads. One load of gravel was also provided to the golf club.
- 3.5 Issue with Toll being fined by Moree inspector for HML vehicles has been resolved by Toll. No further action required by the Committee.

4.0 General Business

4.1 Mine Progress Report

Jason Conomos, Project Manager, provided the July, August and September 2011 production results as follows:

- 5.373 million BCM overburden removed
- 443,332 tonnes of coal recovered

Rehabilitation status is as follows:

- 18.3 ha rehabilitated and under maintenance
- 13.82 ha seeded to cover crop

The site currently has 96 employees and 14 contractors.

Bart Crosby asked if the recent heavy rain had caused erosion. Jason said it had not affected rehabilitated areas but there had been some blowouts on the waste dumps. He said this isn't a major issue as they just start working over them once the area had been repaired by the dozer.

4.2 Environmental Monitoring Report

Danny Young presented the environmental monitoring results which are attached in the Environmental Monitoring Report. He advised that the real time noise monitor had been at the "Sylvania" and "Coomalgah" properties over the last few months and there had been no indication that noise levels from the mine had exceeded criteria at these locations.

Bart Crosby asked how dams are managed onsite. Danny advised that the site targets discharge dams to extract water for dust suppression so that water levels remain as low as possible in preparation for wet weather. He said the site can also pump water back up through the sediment basin chain if necessary. Danny said that the Environment Protection Licence specifies that the site must demonstrate it has made an effort to reduce water levels in the discharge dams.

Bart asked whether the results from Orica blast monitoring could be trusted given the other issues within the company at the moment. Danny said Whitehaven had requested reports from Orica in the event of any issues associated with blasting activities and these reports had been issued to OEH.

Bart also suggested that the community has some concern about Orica's management of blasting in the area and the local depot because management issues such as those at Newcastle are often company wide. Danny advised that he was meeting with Orica on the 21st November 2011 and he would raise these concerns with them.

Bart advised the committee that the complaint regarding coal falling from a Toll truck and smashing a windscreen was from him. He requested some clarification from Toll regarding their policy for not replacing broken windscreens as he believes the law says you are responsible for anything that falls from your vehicle. Jill Johnson said she would seek advice from Toll.

Danny advised the Committee of the discussions between Boggabri Coal, Tarrawonga and Aston Resources regarding cumulative management and monitoring of impacts from the mines such as dust. The three companies had a meeting with OEH on the 15th November and OEH were impressed with the amount of work the mines had done of their own accord.

Bart asked what times the monitoring would operate and where the monitors would be located. Danny said the monitors will be sited based on advice from specialist consultants and monitoring will be undertaken 24/7.

Bart asked whether the information would be available to the Department and the community. Danny said the information will be provided to all three mines in real time and an independent specialist will be engaged to review and verify the results in order to provide a monthly summary that will be available on the three company's websites. Danny also discussed the predictive management capabilities of the system.

Danny advised that assuming approval of the LOM project, the southern waste emplacement will be rehabilitated first (which will be in the next couple of years).

5.0 New Business

- 5.1 Ken acknowledged that he didn't need to raise concern about the visibility of the numbers of the Toll trucks because they have been much more visible over the last couple of months. Jill advised that in addition to the more regular cleaning of trucks, Whitehaven had also engaged a street sweeper for the CHPP access road and its junction with the Kamilaroi Highway to reduce any coal being tracked out onto the road.

- 5.2 Bart said he is concerned about the amount of coal dust on the signs and guide posts on the section between the CHPP and the speedway. He said it is a public road and not being able to read the signs is a safety issue. Danny said that the council had cleaned them and that he would look into the issue further.
- 5.3 Ken Bates asked if the meeting minutes could be emailed to him as soon as they have been typed up. He also requested a CD with all previous meeting minutes and environmental reports. Colleen Fuller also requested the minutes to be emailed to her.
- 5.4 Colleen Fuller thanked Whitehaven for their efforts in cleaning up the oil spill on Manilla Road on the 2nd November 2011. The spill was not the responsibility of Whitehaven as it was caused by a farmer on a tractor so the efforts of Whitehaven are appreciated.
- 5.5 Ken Bates said the attendance at the Community Information Day was disappointing but he thinks it was beneficial.
- 5.6 Ken Bates asked how the planning was progressing for a trip to Hunter Valley No 1 to inspect their low permeability barrier. Danny said he had contacted Rio Tinto and had received an acknowledgement of request but he was not sure how long it would be for us to receive a reply. Ken said the crop above the barrier didn't look like it was doing very well. Jill suggested that you would need to look at all possible contributing factors rather than just assuming the barrier was the issue.
- 5.7 Colleen Fuller thanked Whitehaven for their \$200 donation to Meals on Wheels which meant the cost of meals did not have to increase.
- 5.8 Bart Crosby asked Jason to request via toolbox talk that his employees slow down. He said it is getting beyond a joke and the "runway" in front of his house is like a drag strip at the moment.
- 5.9 Jason Conomos said that Boggabri Coal's proposal to direct traffic onto Goonbri Road will increase dust. Bart also said that NSC had told him that traffic counts indicated an average of 33 vehicle movements on Manilla Road in 2003 and 414 movements in 2010/11. Jill asked if that information was from a report available to everyone and Bart said it was stated to him verbally during a conversation with a NSC employee.
- 5.10 Ken Bates asked whether there had been a meeting to discuss the proposed road deviation. Danny said there had been preliminary discussions between the road design consultant and NSC. Ken said he hadn't seen the report yet.

6.0 Complaints

Complaints 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 8th February 2011 at 10:00am.

Meeting closed at 11:10 am.

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Ken Bates - Chairman