

# ***Werris Creek Coal Community Consultative Committee***

## **Nineteenth Meeting of the Committee**

### **Whitehaven Coal Training Room, Werris Creek Coal (WCC)**

**10.00am Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

## **MINUTES**

Community Consultative Committee (CCC) met at 9:30am prior to the meeting for a pit tour of the mine site to update committee members on the progress and status of operations onsite.

### **1. Record of Attendance:**

Present: Ron Short (Community Representative - Chair); Noel Taylor (Community Representative); Jill Coleman (Community Representative); Lindsay Bridge – arrived 10.45am (Community Representative); Col Stewart (Liverpool Plains Shire Council); Ron Van Katwyk (Liverpool Plains Shire Council); Andrew Wright (Environmental Officer WCC); Mick Post (Project Manager WCC); Des George (WCC); Lisa Single (WCC Minute Taker).

Apologies: Chris Holley (Community Representative).

### **2. New Matters for Discussion under General Business**

None.

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### **a) Actions from Previous Meeting**

None.

#### **b) Other Matters Arising**

### **Whitehaven Letter Response to CCC Coal Train Dust Letter**

At the previous meeting, the committee felt that there was no need to respond to Tony Haggarty's letter and looked forward to regular updates on the coal train dust minimization project. Proposals for measuring and monitoring coal train dust levels are currently being drafted.

### **4. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011 were accepted as true representation of business conducted on the day.

*Moved: Col Stewart; Seconded: Noel Taylor. Motion carried*

### **5. Declaration of Pecuniary or other interests**

None declared.

## 6. Environmental Monitoring Report February, March and April 2011

**Weather Station** – The weather station was 100% reliable during the period.

**Dust** – All monthly and annual average results for Particulate Matter <10µm (PM10)/Total Suspended Particulate (TSP) and Dust Deposition monitoring were below compliance levels. There was one daily (20<sup>th</sup> April 2011) PM10 result at “Cintra” above the PM10 daily limit. WCC owns “Cintra” and therefore dust compliance criteria do not apply. A PM10 and TSP sample was missed on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011 due to a black out.

**Noise** – February attended noise monitoring was below compliance criteria. Elevated noise levels were recorded at “Tonsley Park”, “Greenslopes” and “Kyooma” during March attended noise monitoring due to presence of a temperature inversion. Elevated noise levels were recorded at “Tonsley Park” and “Greenslopes” during April attended noise monitoring due to presence of a temperature inversion. Noise criteria in the consent are not applicable under adverse weather conditions such as temperature inversions or high winds. WCC has a private agreement in place with “Almawillee”, “Glenara”, “Tonsley Park” and “Kyooma” for mining noise related impacts at those properties and the noise criteria does not apply.

**Blasting** – During the period a total of 21 blasts were fired by the blasting contractor, Orica Mining Services. All blasts complied with licence limits with no blasts overpressure level above 115dB(L) and no blast vibration levels greater than 5mm/s.

**Groundwater** – Groundwater levels have continuing to rise following the good rain late last year. Groundwater monitoring results were within the trigger levels of the Groundwater Response Plan.

**Surface water** – Surface water monitoring results were within the trigger levels of the Site Water Management Plan response plan.

**Surface Water Discharges** – There were no wet weather discharge events and four controlled discharge events during the period. All surface water discharge results were within WCC Environmental Protection Licence 12290 criteria and there were no impacts on water quality monitored in Quipolly and Werris Creeks’ catchments as a result of the discharge events.

**Complaints** – There were 21 complaints received during the reporting period with the details summarized below. In total there were 25 issues raised – 12 related to noise (from four separate complainants), five related to lighting, four related to blasting, two related to dust and two related to unauthorized access. There were nine different complainants during the period with 11 individual complaints originating from one complainant in Werris Creek.

There were 12 complaints for noise impacts from WCC operations, with 10 complaints from Werris Creek residents (seven from one complainant and three from another complainant) and two complaints were from the Quipolly area. The majority of the complaints occurred during adverse weather conditions (temperature inversions or high wind speeds) that could potentially enhance noise levels experience by the complainant. No exceedance of noise criteria was identified because noise levels measured under “enhancing” adverse weather conditions cannot be compared against the noise criteria. The majority of the complaints were in relation to noise from dozers (engine revs and track clatter) operating at the Rail Load Out facility which has had increased management focus to ensure operators adhere to the 1<sup>st</sup> gear reverse policy and for the next budget period a new dozer will be purchased to replace one of the existing dozers. In addition, WCC have commenced attended noise monitoring at two locations within Werris Creek and to date have confirmed noise levels from WCC operations are within compliance.

There were five complaints relating to lighting impacts from WCC with all complaints from the one complainant in Werris Creek. On each occasion WCC investigated and did not identified any

lighting plants that would be visible to Werris Creek as operations were either in pit or below the level of the ridge line between the open cut and Werris Creek. WCC are investigating the use of a camera to monitor light sources towards the mine site from the southern edge of Werris Creek. There were four complaints from two blasts undertaken by WCC. All blast complaints were from Werris Creek residents. The blast on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2011 resulted in two complaints relating to the dust cloud generated by the blast. The blast was one of the largest ever fired by Werris Creek Coal and the prevailing dry weather prior to the blast would have resulted in increased dust generation. Any dust generated by the blast dissipated over WCC owned land. The blast on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011 generated two complaints regarding vibrations experienced at the complainants' home resulting in window rattling. While it was a larger blast fired, it was not expected to cause any impacts because it was fired in the bottom of the pit. The blast results at all locations including Werris Creek were within compliance limits. The blasting contractor at WCC, Orica Mining Services has been requested to review the last 12 months of blasting complaints to identify any blast design/s that could be improved to reduce the potential for complaints.

Col Stewart asked if an identification label could be used to compare which complaints are from the various complainants instead of all complainants being labeled by their location. Andrew Wright said the suggestion will be adopted and a revised complaints table will be provided with the minutes.

Ron Short commented that he had anecdotally observed an increase in the frequency that noise is audible from the mining operations at his property. Also Ron Short commented that when the mine commenced that people in the Quipolly area were concerned about the loss of groundwater due to mining, however it is pleasing to see that it has not been a major issue.

Another community member asked a question about noise from dozer tracks.

Motion moved to accept the Environmental Monitoring Report February, March and April 2011.

*Moved: Ron Van Katwyk; Seconded: Jill Coleman. Motion Carried.*

## **7. General Business**

### **a. WCC Life of Mine Project Environmental Assessment Update**

WCC submitted the Response to Submissions report for the Life of Mine Project on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011. The Department of Planning was now undertaking the assessment phase of the project, with only the formal inquiry to date relating to the size of the Biodiversity Offset package.

### **b. "History of Coal Mining at Werris Creek" Publication**

All the committee had reviewed the formatted copy of the "History of Coal Mining at Werris Creek" and was happy with the quality and content of the document, and thought the personal story from Dora Koops (daughter of former Werris Creek Colliery Manager) was important. Amendments suggested by the committee to be made to the document:

- Any comments provided by Dora Koops including that the pit horses were bred at Curlewis and walked to Werris Creek;
- Change the photo on the front cover to a close up of the former boiler chimney of underground mine;
- Change the colour of pages where white text was on a black background;
- The font size in parts of the document were too small; and
- A couple of typographical errors with reference labels incorrectly formatted.

WCC have spent approximately \$8,000 on drafting and formatting the document to date and will cost approximately \$5,000 to publish 500 copies for the Werris Creek rail museum or other historical societies in the district to sell.

Motion moved to publish the "History of Coal Mining at Werris Creek".

*Moved: Lindsay Bridge; Seconded: Jill Coleman. Motion Carried.*

**c. Neville Davies**

A former neighbour of WCC, Neville Davies, which WCC purchased the property "Marengo" in May 2010 from him, had raised concerns that he could still feel blasts from the coal mine. Andrew Wright said that based on the relationship with Neville that if he had any concerns, he would not hesitate to make a complaint, however a phone call will be made to verify his concerns.

**d. Resignation of Ron Short as chairman and Community Representative on the WCC CCC**

Ron Short announced to the committee that due to other commitments that require him to be out of the district for extended periods, he will be resigning as the Chairman and as a Community Representative on the WCC CCC. Ron Short said that he had enjoyed his time on the committee, thanking the other community representatives for their efforts. Ron Short also commented that he appreciated the time and commitment that WCC had made to ensuring that the committee could function in a collaborative and effective manner. WCC thanked Ron Short for the kind words and in response said that Ron Short's efforts and the diligent manner in how he conducted himself as the Chairman as well as managing meetings since the inception as an inaugural committee member was a key reason for why the WCC enjoyed good relationships with the local community. While Ron Short's participation on the committee will be missed, WCC wish him all the best for his future endeavours. Ron Short said he will send his resignation letter to the Department of Planning and Andrew Wright will update the committee on the process to appoint the next Chairperson.

**Meeting Closed 10.55am.**

**Next Meeting was scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011.**

**Copy to:**

Ron Short	Chairman and Community Representative
Chris Holley	Community Representative
Jill Coleman	Community Representative
Noel Taylor	Community Representative
Lindsay Bridge	Community Representative

Colin Phillips	DoP	Casper Dieben	Werris Creek Coal
Michael Lloyd	I&I NSW	Brian Cullen	Werris Creek Coal
Lindsay Fulloon	OEH	Danny Young	Werris Creek Coal
Ron Van Katwyk	LPSC	Mick Post	Werris Creek Coal
Cr Col Stewart	LPSC	Des George	Werris Creek Coal
		Andrew Wright	Werris Creek Coal

**POSTSCRIPT BUSINESS ARISING: Resignation of Chris Holley as a Community Representative on the WCC CCC**

During a phone call following the committee meeting, Chris Holley announced his resignation as a Community Representative on the WCC CCC. Chris Holley said that the pending grant for the expansion of the Werris Creek rail museum would see him as the President have to increase his time at the museum plus attending additional funding progress meetings in Sydney on a regular basis. WCC on behalf of the committee would like to thank Chris Holley for his service on the committee since the start as an inaugural member of the committee. Chris Holley advised that he will send a letter of resignation to the mine.