

Minutes of Whitehaven Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday 28 September 2006

Location: Whitehaven Coal Mine, Hoads Lane, Boggabri

Present: Chris Burgess (Chair); Bob McGregor; Kellie Fletcher; Helen Cruickshank; Ken Bates (NSC); Rachel Gleeson (WCM); Bob Corbett (WCM); Colin Hulm (WCM)

Apologies: Hans Allgayer

Commencement time: 3:15pm

1. Introduction and welcome by the Chris Burgess acting as Chairperson due to Hans absence.
2. Apologies: Hans Allgayer
3. The minutes from previous meeting (8th March 2006) were read by Chris Burgess and distributed. Moved by Ken Bates. Seconded by Bob McGregor.

3.1 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- (a) Further Reserves. Test drilling has been undertaken for further mine reserves south of Canyon North Extension. 5 exploration holes were drilled towards Wilga house. No economical reserve coal was located, due to splits of stone bands.
- (b) Coal Transportation. Haulage of coal from Tarrawonga began today. It will take 3 months to build up towards full production. Behind schedule on setting up crushing plant at Tarrawonga. Current procedure is to transport coal to WCM for crushing. Transporting between 7:00am and 5:30pm along mine haul road. There will be no increase in truck movement before Christmas.
- (c) School Bus. Kellie Fletcher advised that there have been no issues or concerns raised since last meeting concerning the school bus.
- (d) Signage and Visibility. Work has been completed on the intersection of the mine access road and Hoad Lane. Line marking, reflectors and guideposts have all been completed. The last few signs are being erected. Bob Corbett questioned where 'stop' signs were to Tarrawonga.
- (e) Complaints. There have been two complaints since March.

One complaint was from Barbara Atkinson regarding a blast. Both Chris Burgess and Colin Hulm (Buck) responded. The blast proved to be within compliance guidelines.

The second complaint was regarding a coal transport truck. Chris Burgess has contacted Howard Haulage about the matter and is awaiting their response.

- (f) Meeting Frequency. The CCC meetings will be held as needs be, with a minimum of one meeting per year.

4. General Business

4.1 Report on mine progress.

- Currently mining 3 blocks heading south. Mining both top and bottom seams. Will proceed to mine as far south as possible before boundary line.
- To the west – mining bottom seam only.
- Roche contract finished on 3rd April 2006. 3 month change-over
- Whitehaven now own the digger and 3 Terex trucks.
- Whitehaven hire 1 x 1800 digger, Komatsu trucks
- Current rate of mining will produce approx. 750K to 800K t/pa
- As mining of the Canyon progresses, Belmont mine will begin
- Once Belmont is in full production – WCM will decrease production
- Current labour force = 26 operators and 6 fitters (fitters are shared with Tarrawonga Mine)
- A meeting was recently held on site with DNR & DEC to discuss offsets. An inspection was carried out of the rehabilitated areas, and the government departments were impressed with the rehab so far.

5. New Business

5.1 Ken Bates enquired what percentage of the workforce were local people. Chris Burgess advised that nearly all were local.

5.2 Helen Cruickshank asked the hours of operation for the washery and mentioned that her windows jingle at night.

Chris Burgess advised that with 2 crushers installed at Tarrawonga, most coal would go straight to rail. 65% of Tarrawonga coal is clean and will bypass the washery. 35% of Tarrawonga coal will be going through the washery. All of Whitehaven coal will be washed.

6. Complaints

6.1 Barbara Atkinson was concerned about a Whitehaven blast, but monitoring proved the blast to be compliant with regulations.

6.2 Mrs. Pam Crosby alleged her daughter-in-law was run off the road by a coal truck and ran her car off to the side of the road. John Molloy, of Howard Haulage went to look at the sight. He discussed the matter with

drivers and reported back to Chris Burgess. No one saw her or has any knowledge of the incident. No driver has yet been identified.

Kellie Fletcher commented that in her opinion the drivers are better than before.

Chris Burgess advised that Howard Haulage holds regular toolbox talks and are generally very good at discussing issues with drivers. Numbers will need to be put on trucks so they are easily identifiable.

Ken Bates moved that the Community Consultative Committee write to Howard Haulage instructing them to put numbers on trucks.

Chris Burgess advised that the haulage contract will be going to tender. Three companies have lodged tenders, and an announcement will be made soon.

- 6.3 Kellie Fletcher mentioned that neighbours are complaining about dust caused by Idemitsu and the damage to Hoad Lane from extra traffic. She said that complaints have been made to Narrabri Shire Council but were told that it was up to Idemitsu to fix the road.

Bob Corbett reported that elevated dust levels were recorded near Atkinsons.

Bob McGregor mentioned that Manilla Road is also getting damaged due to increased traffic movements. He also said the dust coming from the Maules Creek Road corners was getting very bad.

Ken Bates advised that Narrabri Shire Council is investigating how much road repair is needed.

Chris Burgess said there was extra traffic on Hoad Lane generated by the Idemitsu mine with employees and delivery vehicles. Chris suggested two traffic counters be utilized to gauge traffic movements. Chris suggests one counter be positioned on Hoad Lane on the Gunnedah side of the access lane and the second counter be placed after the bitumen extension. This will allow for the separation of traffic numbers from WCM and Idemitsu.

Bob Corbett recommended that a letter be written to EPA about dust levels – including neighbours comments about increased traffic. Bob also suggested an extra dust gauge be placed near the bottom paddock in the Merton property adjacent Hoad Lane.

- 6.4 Bob Corbett mentioned that a number of private vehicles are using our private access road.

Chris Burgess reported that it is signposted as 'private road'. It needs to be unlocked at night to allow workshop and service personnel to travel between the mines. All gates will be locked over the Christmas period, which should show the general public that it is not a public road. The gates at the Tarrawonga Mine will be locked at night when the mine is not operating.

Kellie Fletcher enquired about liability should a member of the public be injured while travelling on the private haul road.

Chris Burgess commented that it was impossible to stop people using the road and it is a concern.

Bob McGregor requested 'private property – no thru road' sign be placed on entrance driveways into his "Tarrowonga" property.

7. Actions and Responsibilities

- 7.1 One missing 'Stop' sign will be erected (WCM).
- 7.2 A letter will be written to the haulage contractor requesting id numbering on all trucks. (WCM).
- 7.3 Letter will be written to EPA by Bob Corbett, informing that a trend has been noticed in elevated dust due to extra traffic movement on Hoad Lane. The letter will also advise that an extra intermediate dust gauge will be installed (WCM).
- 7.4 Two signs will be organised for Bob McGregor's property (WCM).
- 7.5 Letter will be written to Rob Neale inviting him to attend next meeting (WCM).
- 7.6 Provide notice and agenda of March 2007 meeting (WCM).

8. Next Meeting and Agenda

The next meeting will be held in March 2007.

Agenda topic for next meeting: The intersection of Goonbri Road and the Tarrowonga Mine entrance. Suggestion was made that we invite Rob Neale to attend.

The meeting was closed at 4:15pm, and was followed by a mine site tour.

Chris Burgess
Chairman