



**WHITEHAVEN COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT
NOVEMBER 2007 – AUGUST 2008**

Noise Monitoring:

Noise monitoring continues to occur with regard to operational noise and road traffic noise. The following tables provide the results for each of the noise monitoring events undertaken since the previous CCC meeting.

Road Haulage Noise Monitoring:- 27th March 2008

Road noise monitoring was undertaken from the “Brooklyn” residence between 10:30am and 11:30am on the 27th March 2008. The total measured noise contribution from mine related vehicles was 54.4 dB(A), Leq(1 hour). This result is well within the compliance criteria limit of 60dB(A) as required under the Canyon and Tarrawonga consent limits.

Operational Noise Monitoring – 27th March 2008

WCM Noise Monitoring Results 27th March 2008 (Day)

Location	Time	dB(A), Leq	Wind Speed/ Direction	Identified Source dB(A), Leq (15 min)
Wilgai	11:40am	36.6	0.5 m/s, S	Birds & Insects(36), Coal Trucks(26)
Gundawarra	12:05pm	39.0	0.5 m/s, S	Birds & Insects(47), WCM(25)
Merton	12:30pm	33.6	0.5 m/s, S	Dog(31), WCM(30)
Broadwater	12:29pm	34.9	0.5 m/s, S	Insects and Birds(35), WCM barely audible

WCM Noise Monitoring Results 27th March 2008 (Evening)

Location	Time	dB(A), Leq	Wind Speed/ Direction	Identified Source dB(A), Leq(15 min)
Wilgai	8:09pm	49.2	<0.5 m/s, SE	Crickets(46), Coal Trucks(36), WCM(35)
Gundawarra	8:23pm	40.1	<0.5 m/s, SE	Crickets(46), Coal Trucks(32), WCM(29) , local cars(34)
Merton	8:36pm	40.1	<0.5 m/s, SSE	WCM(37), Coal Trucks(30), Insects(36)
Broadwater	8:58pm	35.2	<0.5 m/s, SE	Insects(35), WCM inaudible

WCM Noise Monitoring Results 27th March 2008 (Night)

Location	Time	dB(A), Leq	dB(A), L1 (1 min)	Wind Speed/ Direction	Identified Source dB(A), Leq(15 min)
Wilgai	10:14pm	22.3	N/A	Calm	Wind(22), WCM inaudible
Gundawarra	10:37pm	33.2	N/A	Calm	Car(33), Insects(25), WCM barely audible
Merton	10:58pm	35.8	N/A	Calm	Dog(35), Insects(25), WCM(25)
Broadwater	11:35pm	31.6	N/A	Calm	Insects(31), domestic noise(23), WCM inaudible

dB(A), L1(1 min) not measurable due to WCM inaudible or very low range

The results of the above monitoring event indicates WCM exceeded the noise criterion of 35 dB(A) at Wilgai and Merton during the evening survey by 1 and 2 db(A) respectively, and was in relation to coal trucks at Wilgai and operational noise at Merton. Additional noise sources of similar level (insects) would have reduced the overall impact of the exceedance on this occasion. Ongoing monitoring will be used to determine if noise exceedance at these receivers becomes an ongoing issue.

The next round of noise monitoring is programmed for the end of September 2008.

BLAST MONITORING

Since September 2007 there have been 19 blasts. There were no instances of exceedance in overpressure or ground vibration during this period.

AIR QUALITY MONITORING

Deposited Dust monitoring has continued across all sites. The results of the monitoring since the last meeting are presented below:

MONTH	D1 Whitehaven	D2 Merton House	D5 Wilga	D7 Wilgai	D8 Gundawarra	D10 Merton	D11 Merton	D12 Whitehaven	D13B Wilga
Oct 07	1.6	2.5	2.1	1.0	4.5	2.1	1.2	0.8	1.8
Nov 07	0.7	1.3	0.5	1.8	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.5
Dec 07	0.7	1.8	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.6	2.6	1.5	2.0
Jan 08	0.4	3.8	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.5	3.8
Feb 08	1.0	2.0	0.7	2.0	3.3	2.3	4.2	1.0	1.0
Mar 08	1.7	1.4	0.9	2.9	1.5	2.2	14.5	1.2	2.5
April 08	0.8	2.8	0.4	1.7	1.2	1.8	2.3	0.8	1.0
May 08	0.7	0.8	1.1	0.8	2.1	1.6	1.8	0.5	0.6
June 08	0.4	1.3	0.7	N/A	0.7	6.2	3.0	1.4	0.7
July 08									
Average	0.8	2.0	0.9	1.4	1.8	2.2	3.5	0.9	1.5

Generally, the results indicate a low level of deposited dust at most receivers. The result for March 2008 from the D11 Merton receiver returned a high dust reading which has contributed to increasing the overall average at that receiver. This reading was out of character with other results that month and has been shown to be an isolated incident. The D10 Merton monitor also returned a reading of 6.2 in June 08. Again, this appears to be an isolated incident and ongoing monitoring will continue to establish ongoing trends. All sites remain within the consent criteria of 4g/m²/month. The annual average for deposited dust has generally declined over this period as compared to the results from the previous 12 months.

WATER MONITORING

Since the last meeting there has one surface water discharge event from the Whitehaven site, with analysis results presented below.

SAMPLE POINT	DATE	pH	EC	TSS	GREASE/OIL
WW11 – Upstream	06/02/08	6.4	55	81	<2
WW9 – Discharge	06/02/08	7.1	250	66	<2
WW12 – Downstream	06/02/08	6.7	110	41	<2

The discharge results indicate that TSS loads were slightly elevated when leaving the mine site. However, the upstream sample confirmed elevated TSS prior to entry to the mine site, with the downstream sample confirming TSS levels within concentration criteria. This is indicative of elevated TSS levels being reduced by on site storage and the grassed waterway prior to discharge to Driggle Draggie Creek.

Groundwater monitoring continues across the range of monitoring locations with no significant change recorded in groundwater chemistry at any of the monitoring locations. Groundwater standing water levels are presented in the following table.

SAMPLE POINT	DATE	SWL
GW-2 Bungalow	7/11/06	19.35
	7/02/07	19.26
	4/05/07	19.26
	15/08/07	19.27
	10/10/07	19.16
	8/04/08	18.65
GW-4 Merton	7/11/06	15.92
	7/02/07	20.2
	4/05/07	21.2
	15/08/07	21.2
	10/10/07	21.1
	08/04/08	21.5
GW-5 Merton	7/11/06	21.4
	7/02/07	24.2
	4/05/07	24.3
	15/08/07	24.3
	10/10/07	24.2
	08/04/08	24.3
GW-7 Womboola	7/11/06	25.8
	7/02/07	25.5
	4/05/07	25.6
	15/08/07	25.7
	10/10/07	25.5
	08/04/08	25.7
GW-8 Wilga	7/11/06	22.2
	7/02/07	21.9
	4/05/07	21.8
	15/08/07	22.1
	10/10/07	22.1
	08/04/08	22.6
GW-9 Whitehaven	7/11/06	19.7
	7/02/07	19.6
	4/05/07	19.7
	15/08/07	19.7
	10/10/07	19.7
	08/04/08	19.6

VNW-221	7/11/06	11.5
	7/02/07	11.6
	4/05/07	12.8
	15/08/07	12.9
	10/10/07	12.4
	08/04/08	14.2
VNW-222	7/11/06	12.7
	7/02/07	12.3
	4/05/07	13.2
	15/08/07	13.2
	10/10/07	13.3
	08/04/08	15.1
VNW-223	7/11/06	19.2
	7/02/07	18.5
	4/05/07	18.1
	15/08/07	19.5
	10/10/07	19.6
	08/04/08	20.6

The above SWL results indicate minor variability in terms of the water levels in the specified monitoring bores. GW4 and GW5 at Merton have shown the greatest variability however these levels still remain within the range that has been previously recorded at these sites. VNW-221 and VNW-222 has also shown a drop in SWL as the active face of the pit has approached those monitoring points. It is proposed replacement piezometers will be established in the event that active mining further encroaches onto these monitoring points.

REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation across the site continues to progress with reshaping works and cover establishment continuing behind the advancing face of the active mine. Rehabilitation has now extended into the Canyon extension area with bank layout and seeding to cover crop proposed over the next few weeks.

Tree planting campaigns have been undertaken on a number of occasions with both Rotary and Red Chief Local Aboriginal Land Council. This has occurred on the northern face above the haul road as well as on the western face adjacent to the plateau of the existing rehab. Weather conditions have been favourable to the latest rounds of planting which should see positive results from these campaigns. Whitehaven has recently employed an environmental field officer whose role will include monitoring of planted seedlings and to undertake supplementary watering and mulching if required.

In total, some 3,500 trees have been planted at Whitehaven since the last CCC meeting. Planting will continue on the basis of adequate moisture and available tubestock.