



# MUSWELLBROOK COAL COMPANY LIMITED

Established 1907 A.C.N. 000 009 521

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## MINUTES

### **Muswellbrook Coal Company Community Consultative Committee 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 Muswellbrook Coal Company's Administration Offices**

Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mr. Malcolm Ogg	Community Representative
Mr. John Madden	Community Representative
Ms. Jennifer Lecky	Community Representative
Ms. De-anne Douglas	Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council
Ms. Theresa Folpp	Muswellbrook Shire Council
Mr. Brett O'Kane ( <i>Head of Site</i> )	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Ms. Julie Thomas ( <i>Environmental Superintendent</i> )	Muswellbrook Coal Company
Mrs. Erin Muffett ( <i>Minute Taker</i> )	Muswellbrook Coal Company

#### **1. Open Meeting**

The meeting was opened at 12:11pm by Ms Julie Thomas.

#### **2. Apologies**

Mr. Garry Chapman Community Representative

#### **3. Correspondence**

Out – December meeting minutes sent out to CCC members on 8 December 2022.

March update emailed to CCC members on 9 March 2023.

Environmental Management Plan overall strategy sent out to CCC members 23 April 2023

In - Nil

#### **4. Declaration of pecuniary or other interests**

Nil.

#### **5. Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes from the previous ordinary meeting held on 7th June 2022 were confirmed as true and reliable. Moved – Ms. De-anne Douglas, Second by Mr. Malcolm Ogg.

#### **6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

*Question by Malcolm Ogg:* Item 12 from the previous meeting the work with the Historical Society. How is that progressing.

*Mrs Erin Muffett:* Work is continuing, and this is still a work in progress.

## **7. Notification of Items of General Business Proposed to be Raised:**

Nil

## **8. Reports**

*Environmental Monitoring Data & Operations* – Julie Thomas presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee. The presentation contained an update on approvals, mine operations, project, rehabilitation, complaints and the results of the environmental monitoring data (weather, dust, gas, water, blasting and noise), at the mine site.

### Mining Update

- Coal haulage finished in March 2023. This completes all coal mining activities at MCC.
- Rehabilitation in Open Cut 2 is continuing and nearing completion.
- Spontaneous combustion management continues.
- Decommissioning of the CHPP is almost complete and will finish this week.
- Rehabilitation in Open Cut 1 is planned to commence in Q2 2023. This will be a 2 – 2 ½ year program.
- In April 2022, MCC submitted an application to MSC to make minor amendments to the development consent to assist in the transition from mining into a closure execution phase and ultimately lease relinquishment. The modification was discussed with both MSC and the Resource Regulator prior to submission of the application. MCC has received feedback from MSC and has developed a response to submissions. MSC are currently assessing this information. A determination is expected in Q2 2023.

### Project Update

- Exploration Licence A176 Update – Idemitsu Australia is working with the Resource Regulator to finalise the relinquishment of Exploration Licence A176.
- Idemitsu Australia has started the process to relinquish ML1513 – Sandy Creek Lease.
- MCC has received feedback from MSC on the Old Pit Top development application. MSC and MCC had a meeting in March to discuss this further and MCC provided additional information to MSC. MSC are currently assessing this information. MCC have had discussions with the Resource Regulator regarding the sealing of old portal closures. The Resource Regulator have no further comment and are comfortable with the Risk Assessment. The Resource Regulator will review after the remediation work has been completed prior to relinquishment.

*Question by Theresa Folpp:* Do you have the Resource Regulators response in writing.

*Ms Julie Thomas:* Yes, we do.

- Pumped Hydro Update – The first phase of the feasibility study has been completed and so the technical feasibility supports a promising pumped-hydro scheme. The next stage of the project is to enter the detailed design phase and begin the environmental approval process.

*Question by Malcolm Ogg:* Water for the Pumped Hydro. Where is it coming from?

*Ms Julie Thomas:* There are excess Water Licences which can be used but I don't believe it is 100% settled on that.

- Solar Farm Update - ESCO Pacific is currently preparing a DA and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be submitted to the Department of Planning and Environmental towards the end of 2023.

### Environmental Management Plan Update

- MCC has a requirement to update the Environmental Management Plans at the end of mining activities.
- All MCC Environmental Management Plans will be updated at the end of mining activities to reflect changes from an active mining operation to a site that is transitioning to mine closure.
- The required consultation was undertaken. The only comment received was from DPE-Water on the Water Management Plan
- MSC are currently assessing these updates.

### West Muswellbrook Project

- No update

### MCC Mine Closure

- Mine closure activities focusing on the requirements for lease relinquishment are ongoing.  
*Question by Ms Jennifer Lecky: Is there a timeframe?*  
*Ms Julie Thomas: It will be some time away as all vegetation must be established and self-sustainable prior to relinquishment. Other projects can also impact this timeframe. Possibly 20-25 years away.*
- In parallel with this work, alternate post mining land use studies are ongoing this includes Pumped Hydro and a Solar Farm.
- MCC are working with Transport NSW on interactions between MCC activities and the Muswellbrook Bypass.
- Hunter Gas Pipeline passes through MCC land. Discussions are being held with Santos regarding interactions.  
*Question by Ms Dee-anne Douglas: Has there been community consultations meetings?*  
*Ms Julie Thomas: Yes, Santos have been conducting community consultation.*

### Weather

- Wind Roses: for March, April and May were presented. Predominantly South Easterly Winds with a shift in May to North Westerly.
- Rainfall: Lower average rainfall in the last 5 months. Last decent rain in March 2023.

### Dust

- $PM_{10}$ : All within range, no exceedance to discuss.

### Gas Monitoring

- Gas monitor results from Muscle Creek, were presented to the CCC. All results were within the realm of where we expect them to be. Full results are available on the company website.

### Water

- Changes to monitoring frequency and analysis following a review as part of the mine closure studies.
- Ground Water Sampling shows still within acceptable levels.
- Surface Water Monitoring – remains constant. Increase in electrical conductivity with the dryness.

### Complaints

- The 12-month complaint history until May 2023 was presented to the CCC. MCC has received a total of 4 complaints in 2023. Three complaints were relating to spontaneous combustion (odour) and one complaint related to road haulage.

*Question by Ms Theresa Folpp:* Does the spontaneous combustion management include a visual inspection?

*Ms Julie Thomas:* We still have OCE's conducting inspections. Rehabilitation activities will assist with management. We have been cleaning out sediments from dams and using this sediment to seal known hot areas.

*Question by Ms Jennifer Lecky:* How many staff are left?

*Ms Julie Thomas:* There are 6 staff and some contractors currently on site.

### **9. Submissions**

Nil

### **10. Announcements**

Nil

### **11. Next Meeting**

The next meeting date is Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Meeting will be held at 12:00pm in the Board Room at Muswellbrook Coal Company Administrative Office.

### **12. General Business**

*Nil.*

### **13. Adjourn Meeting**

Meeting closed at 12:51pm.

### **14. Site Inspection**

No site inspection was conducted on this occasion.