

Boggabri - Tarrawonga - Maules Creek Joint Mines Community Consultative Committee

2026

Meeting Held: Thursday 14 May 2026 at the Boggabri Golf Club commencing at 2.02 pm.

Present: Libby Laird (LL) – Maules Creek Coal CCC, Steve Eather (SE) – Maules Creek Coal CCC, Elizabeth O’Hara (EOH) – Boggabri, Tarrawong, Maules Creek Coal CCCs, Robyn Grover (RG) – Maules Creek Coal CCC, Matt Hollis (MH) -TCM, Richard Gillham (RGi) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Cr Rob Hooke (RH) – Tarrawonga Coal CCC, Cr Colleen Fuller (CF) – Gunnedah Shire Council, Wade Hudson – Gunnedah Shire Council, Emma Bulkeley (EB) – MCCM, Jabin De Keizer (JdeK) – MCCM, Anna Curral – MCCM, Alex Williams (AW) – BCOP, Susie Pym (SP) – BCOP.

Guest: Justin Page (JP)– Hunter Jobs Alliance Inc.

Apologies: Roselyn Druce (RD) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Phil Lancaster (PL) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Mitchum Neave (MN) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Stewart Dunlop (SD) – BCO, Mark Hathaway (MHa) – Tarrawonga Coal CCC, Lloyd Finlay (LF) – Tarrawonga Coal CCC, David Gonzalez – MCCM, Cr Jocelyn Jansson – Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Brett Dickinson – Narrabri Shire Council.

Chair: Michael J. Silver OAM (MJS)

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Joint CCC meeting.

2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting is being held and their continuing connection to land, water, and culture, paying respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

3 Declaration of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

EOH has shares in one of the companies. MJS’s expenses are borne by the mining companies.

3 Acceptance of Previous Minutes and Business Arising

The minutes for the 14 November 2024 Joint CCC meeting were approved on 17 December 2024.

4 Actions from Previous Meetings

MJS noted that no actions remained outstanding.

5 Correspondence

5.1 NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) – declining an invitation to attend the Joint Mines meeting to provide further advice on the EPA approach to HV tyre recycling following correspondence to the Boggabri Coal CCC from the Minister for the Environment on HV tyre

recycling. MJS advised he had spoken with Mr Scott Kidd, Director Operations, Western regarding the interest in the region to ensure HV tyres are recycled. Mr Kidd indicated that the EPA was presently undergoing structural reform and at this time it was not possible to provide advice on this recycling issue. MJS advised he would contact Mr Kidd prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Joint Mines CCC in October 2026.

5.2 NSW Environment Protection Authority – providing advice on Regional Air Quality Monitoring following the declining of an invitation to attend the October 2025 meeting of the Joint Mines CCC to discuss the matter. The correspondence suggested two options for improved air quality monitoring the Boggabri area could be considered.

1. Incorporation of the three industry monitoring locations into the public network.
2. Construction of a single new public monitor at Boggabri.

Following discussion, it was **AGREED** that the EPA be advised of the Joint Mines CCC's support for a new public air quality monitor at Boggabri.

ACTION

6. Transition Presentation – Justin Page, Hunter Jobs Alliance (HJA)

MJS welcomed Mr Justin Page of Hunter Jobs Alliance [via video link] to the meeting. JP thanked the Joint Mines CCC for the opportunity to present to its meeting.

JP advised that HJA is a regional alliance of unions, environmental organisations, community groups and industry stakeholders working to secure good jobs, strong local industries and an orderly transition to a low-carbon economy in the Hunter and across NSW.

JP noted that the Future Jobs and Investment Bill 2025 which is in the NSW Parliament looks to establish the Future Jobs and Investment Authority and the Future Jobs and Investment Fund and to provide a framework for strategic intervention to encourage economic growth and development in regions experiencing, or likely to experience, structural economic change as a result of changes in demand for coal or coal-fired power generation.

JP commented on the Bill, which has passed through the lower house of the NSW Parliament and is expected to be debated in the upper house during June. He indicated that legislated, enforceable obligations on coal companies are essential to a fair and credible transition. He suggested that voluntary arrangements risk leaving workers without retraining or redeployment opportunities, undermine community trust, and exclude contractors, labour-hire, and supply chain workers. He noted 14 amendments have been made to the Bill to date primarily ensuring that workers interests are covered. Despite these changes he strongly suggested more amendments are required particularly relating to transition support arrangements for workers.

JP stated employers must be required to provide paid release time, quality-assured training, and genuine workforce planning, with transition support funded directly by coal companies. He noted that the NSW Government proposes to set aside \$25 million each year from mining royalties to support coal mining communities in NSW through the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund which will distribute funds to the four coal mining regions - the Hunter, Illawarra, Central West, and North West regions. JP suggested this allocation is inadequate across the four regions. In support of this statement, he highlighted the closure of a coal mine in Collie, Western Australia which was provided with \$929

million in support funding – “\$25 million per year in NSW is grossly inadequate. We need \$150 million per year – there are 22 coal mines in the Hunter”.

EOH enquired as to what is likely to occur in the Hunter over the next five years.? JP responded that no money has been allocated from the Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund despite calls from councils and advocacy groups to the NSW Government to release these funds to affected communities. He highlighted various looming mine closures and the variability of worker transition packages. JP also advised that the proposed legislation will not support those working in export coal mines.

EOH asked what are the transition planning processes that are being implemented. JP indicated that there is little direction on future job opportunities and what type of training should be implemented. He suggested that the mining companies do not have the skills to retrain staff adequately or appropriately for future jobs.

Finally, he strongly urged that the transition issue should be looked at from a national perspective to ensure that there is a consistent approach across Australia to support workers and communities transitioning away from coal mining.

MJS thanks JP for his comprehensive presentation and indicated that the Joint Mines CCC would be pleased to further discuss the transition issue with him.

7 Presentations

7.1 Maules Creek Coal Mine

JDeK presented an overview of the status of the Maules Creek Coal Mine. A copy of the presentation is attached.

JDeK provided an environmental assessment update of the Maules Creek Coal Continuation Project. He advised the Submissions Report was submitted in October 2025 with further information provided in early 2026.

JDeK indicated that additional groundwater monitoring bores are being established on Whitehaven owned land to support future groundwater monitoring. LL requested advice on the number, location, and depth of these bores. **ACTION**

LL also enquired when the application would be considered by the Independent Planning Commission. JDeK advised it would be speculative to suggest a timeline.

The Chair asked what the implications for the workforce would be should the proposal be approved. JDeK indicated up to 115 extra jobs could be created – the current workforce is 865. RH enquired whether there will be a transfer of jobs from Tarrawonga to Vickery. JDeK indicated that it is unclear at this stage given the various operational modifications being considered.

7.2 Boggabri Coal Mine

AW presented an overview of the status of the Boggabri Coal Mine. A copy of the presentation is attached.

AW provided an update on Modification 10 which is currently moving through the assessment stage with draft conditions to be issued shortly. The Committee noted from the map in the presentation that the modification proposes an increase in mine disturbance area (purple hatched area) and the recovery of additional 30 million tonnes of ROM coal with an increase in mine life through to 2036.

AW explained that MOD 12 is being prepared and is expected to be lodged in the coming months – it relates to consolidation of the biodiversity conservation agreements.

AW advised that in April 2026, the Narrabri Shire Council endorsed Boggabri Coal's request to shift two housing commitments initially slated for Narrabri into Boggabri. The company will build single-storey dwellings aimed specifically at securing and retaining local doctors. AW also reported that the 'Glentarkie' units in Boggabri are complete with discussions continuing with Narrabri Shire Council in respect of the remaining 18 dwelling units.

7.3 Tarrawonga Coal Mine

MH presented an overview of the status of the Boggabri Coal Mine. A copy of the presentation is attached.

MH outlined the history of the mine noting it has a current approval to operate to 31 December 2030. Commenting on the fleet size MH indicated that it is being downsized as the mine moves towards the expiration of its approval. Similarly, employee resources are being redeployed to the Vickery mine.

MH detailed the current haulage arrangements noting that the mine's road haulage is limited to 3.5Mtpa. He then outlined the forecast mining and rehabilitation activities at the mine over the next three years. He then detailed rehabilitation and landform works that have and will be undertaken.

MH provided a detailed analysis of the future of the Tarrawonga mine, noting that a Modification will be required to extend the operational life of Tarrawonga into the 2030's. The extension to project life will be required to mine the remaining approved coal reserves at an approximate annual average of 1.2Mtpa. This would potentially extend the life of the mine by 8 to 10 years. MH then explained Tarrawonga's relationship with the Vickery mine and the need for modifications to road haulage, coal preparation, and handling plus the construction of a rail loop to support the development of 'Big Vickery.'

MH highlighted that this would result in the decommissioning and remediation of the Gunnedah CHPP for beneficial reuse. SE suggested potential reuse options could include a grain terminal.

MH provided a comprehensive outline of the proposed modification to road haulage (MOD 12). It is proposed to increase the cumulative ROM coal road haulage limit from 3.5 Mtpa to 4.1 Mtpa for calendar years 2026 to 2030. This will be achieved by maximising the volume that trucks can haul whilst maintaining the same number of truck movements that are currently approved. LL asked what is the expected timeline for determination of the MOD 12? MH noted that the exhibition period ended on 6 May 2026 with the modification in the Response to Submissions phase – it is unclear when it will be determined.

MH highlighted various other matters associated with mining precinct. He particularly noted that Tarrawonga and Vickery have an existing approval to construct a water sharing pipeline between the two mines. MH advised that the pipeline would derisk the Tarrawonga mining operation by facilitating the transfer of operational water between Vickery and Tarrawonga during dry or wet periods and permit increased water use efficiency and beneficial use via utilisation of long-term excess water storage options.

LL questioned the basis of the modifications associated with haulage of coal to the Gunnedah CHPP. MH explained that the Tarrawonga and Vickery consents each have respective haulage conditions viz. Tarrawonga to Gunnedah CHPPP and Vickery to Gunnedah CHPP but are inter-related. Consequently, both consents need to be modified concurrently. MH explained the current haulage limit of 3.5Mtpa and noted that there has been a previous short-term modification to haulage, however the current haulage modification proposal will be permanent, extending from 2026 to 2030.

EOH enquired whether there has been an increase in the use of mine buses by employees. MH advised there has been no change.

CF enquired whether Tarrawonga coal was sold locally. MH responded that the majority of Tarrawonga coal is for export, with a small quantity sold to local markets.

8 General Business

8.1 Rangari Road: RGi highlighted the extremely poor condition of the unsealed portion of Rangari Road. RG supported the comment. MH understands that Narrabri Shire Council has received grant funding to complete the sealing of the road. The works will involve relocation of some services infrastructure (electricity poles etc) with sealing expected to be completed in 12 months. RGi noted the advice but suggested given the traffic load it is a major thoroughfare for local residents, agricultural operators and the mining workforce and requires immediate attention. RH suggested correspondence be forwarded to the Minister for Roads. MJS advised he would follow up on the matter.

ACTION

Chair's note: *Narrabri Shire Council was allocated \$9 million in funding from the NSW Government's Rural and Regional Roads Fund in late 2025 and combined with additional contributions from Council, will support the remaining 11 kilometres of unsealed section of Rangari Road to be sealed. Council's Draft 2026/27 Operation Plan has scheduled 9 kilometres of Rangari Road to be sealed in the 2026/27 Financial Year at a budget cost of \$6.75 million – all drawn from grant funds.*

8.2 Keepit Dam Water: SE questioned the current situation regarding Tamworth Regional Council's representations to the NSW Government to source water from Keepit Dam as a solution to Tamworth's water security crisis. In response CF advised that seven Councils in the region have formed an alliance to express their concerns over the potential impact of the proposal. The alliance met with the Minister for Water last week regarding the matter. CF stated the issue is "a long way from over."

8.3 Developer Contributions Vickery Coal: WH advised that a community representative to the Vickery Coal CCC was seeking information on allocations to the Boggabri community by

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2026

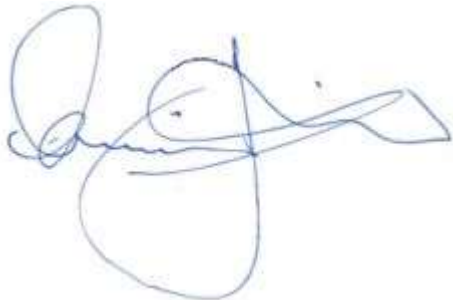
Narrabri Shire Council (NSC) from the Vickery Coal Voluntary Planning Agreement. MJS indicated he would follow up on the matter with NSC. **ACTION**

Chair's note: The information was subsequently obtained independently by the community member.

7 Next Joint CCC Meeting – October 2026

Meeting closed at 3:32 pm.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Silver', with a large loop at the end.

Michael J. Silver OAM
Independent Chair

17 May 2026