

# Minutes of the Boggabri – Tarrawonga – Maules Creek Community Consultative Committee

**Meeting Held:** Thursday 26 May 2022 from 1:30 pm held at the Boggabri Golf Club

## 1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

DR welcomed everyone to the Joint CCC meeting. Meeting commenced at 1:40 pm

**Present:** Cr Cathy Redding (CR), Darren Swain (DS) – WHC, Emma Bulkeley (EB) – MCCM, Hamish Russell (HR) – BCOPL, Mitchum Neave (MN) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Richard Gillham (RGI) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Robyn Grover (RG) – Maules Creek CCC, Steve Eather (SE) – Maules Creek CCC, Stewart Dunlop (SD) – Boggabri Coal, Talan Breaden (TB) – WHC, Megan Martin (MM) - WHC

**Apologies:** Colleen Fuller (CF) – Tarrawonga CCC, Lloyd Finlay (LF) – Tarrawonga CCC, Elizabeth O’Hara (EOH) – Community Representative, Geoff Eather (GE) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Jack Warnock (JW) – Maules Creek, Libby Laird (LL) – Maules Creek, Lyndall Crowley (LC) – Maules Creek CCC, Mark Hatchway (MH) – Community Representative, Rebecca Ryan (RR) – Tarrawonga CCC, Roselyn Druce (RD) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Simmone Moodie (SMo) – Maules Creek CCC,

**Independent Chair:** David Ross (DR)

**Independent Secretary:** Debbie Corlet (DC)

## 2 Declaration of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

RGI, LF, MN, SE, RG – Have properties that have been acquired or fall into the ‘Zone of Affectation’ for acquisition or have family members at one of the mines. DR gets paid for chairing these meetings as does DC for typing the minutes.

## 3 Acceptance of Previous Minutes and Business Arising

The minutes for the May 2021 Joint CCC meeting were accepted by all present as an appropriate reflection on what was discussed.

## 4 Actions from Previous Meeting

HR – with respect to action about partying at the lagoon, all crews were sent messages about appropriate behaviour.

RGI – can you send it again please as a reminder. They need to ensure that they put the fires out properly.

**Action 1 – On all Mines to ensure all employees are aware of this.**

DR – All actions are closed.

## 5 Company Reports

**BCOPL Report by Hamish**

Regulatory Correspondence	Annual Review submitted. Reported blast exceedance from 30 April. Have submitted Annual Return and the initial 18 conservation agreements.
Operations Update	Budgeting 6.8m tonne of railed product. Performance year to date has been impacted by higher than budget rainfall and high absenteeism, partially due to COVID. The mine has cleared nearly 18 hectares for 2022 clearing activities.
2021/2022 Archaeological Salvage Program	The salvage program consisted of consultation, surface collection, test pitting, open area excavation and grader scrapes. Geomorphologists attended site to assist in explaining historic landscape and landform use. HR observed that there is a lot of evidence of tool making present but not actual tools, themselves. The site was potentially a camp – it was chosen as it was elevated, protected and water was present.
Modification 8 Update	HR discussed the reasons for a proposed amendment to the modification. New submission date proposed October 2022.
Housing VPA update	HR gave an update on the operations of the Early Learning Facility and the mine's efforts at constructing houses this year.

### Maules Creek Mine Report by Talan and Emma

Health and Safety	<p>TB provided an update on the mine's health and safety activities. These include: increased field leadership activities; improvement in injury management (increasing coverage through roster changes / earlier interaction / increased field leadership and mentoring of supervisors).</p> <p>CR – Do you have vacancies at the moment, and do you use Labour Force agencies? TB said WHC partner with Work Pack and Unskilled Program.</p> <p><b>Action 2 – DS to get details over to CR on the number of vacancies / positions available.</b></p>
COVID-19	Focus remains on early detection. Controls in line with Government requirements. WHC Sponsored Clinic attended site. COVID-19 related absenteeism continues to decline.
Operator Alertness System	<p>MCC has completed the commissioning of an Operator Alertness System (OAS) in 52 trucks that monitors fatigue and distraction instantaneously for intervention. The system does not change our fatigue management processes but allows us to monitor operator fatigue.</p> <p>There was a discussion then about how the system works. TB noted that a voice comes over in the cab of the fatigued operator and the seat vibrates to wake them up. WHC can then pull the truck up and the supervisor intervenes, and a formalised system is put in place. If it happens again, we work with them to ensure they come to work rested.</p> <p>MN – What percentage catch the bus?  EB – Minimum 70% are catching the bus but generally, it is around 85%.  Contractors catch the bus as well.  TB – We have a number of fatigue workshops and do a lot of one on ones with updating Management Plans etc. There is a system in place – 14-hours including travel time is maximum. So, either 100 kms or 1-hour could exceed those 14 hours. It is tracked by Pegasus. They are not allowed to exceed 60 hours per week.</p> <p><b>Action 3 – TB to report back on the Fatigue Management system</b></p>

Air Quality Monitoring	With respect to depositional dust, the annual reporting period (12 monthly rolling average) remained below the relevant Project Approval criteria of 4g/m <sup>2</sup> /month for the respective monitoring points. Similarly, EB noted that the HVAS and TEOM (PM10) rolling annual averages were below the criteria.
Rehabilitation	As of December 2021 – 194 ha complete. 80,000 seedlings planted. 2022 – 20 ha have been topsoiled with seeding to occur. 40 ha to be completed by December.
Blast Management Plan	EBM noted that the plan has been updated to align it with the relevant BTM Strategy. It will formalise use of portable fume monitors.
Modification 9 – BOS and ETL	Entails modification of the biodiversity offset strategy to align offsets required under NSW legislation with those required under Federal legislation. Also involves construction of an electricity transmission line within a 20-metre corridor to connect the Roma Bore pump to an existing powerline. No changes to coal mining and processing rate. Anticipated to be lodged Q2 CY22.
Community	EB described the donations in previous quarter including over \$50,904 to Westpac Rescue Helicopter (matching employee donations), \$10,000 to Country Education Foundation Namoi. DS described WHC's community investment strategy.

### Tarrawonga Mine Report by Megan

Mining Operations	<p>Production: on track to produce 2.3 MT in FY22. Prioritise local employment. Health and Safety Programs, including ongoing HealthHaven programs and implementation of COVID-19 measures.</p> <p>CR – Was impressed with the number of women who worked at the site.</p>
Environment	<p>MM noted that the mine's tree planting campaign 2022 began in May. Are undertaking rehabilitation works on both the northern and southern emplacement areas, calling on seedling and tree planting.</p> <p>The most recent tree clearing campaign was completed on time with 24 ha cleared. No microbats encountered during pre-clearing ecological checks. MM noted that the Annual Reporting was submitted in March 2021 and Environmental Monitoring programs are ongoing (GW, SW, Air, Noise, Blast, Fauna and Flora, pest and weeds).</p> <p>MN – I would like the GPS coordinates on a map for where all the tyres are buried.</p> <p>DR – They will provide on each of these CCC. EB – All that info will be publicly available as well.</p> <p>MM – We have a Group Tyre Manager, and he keeps all the records. He's been liaising and looking into alternatives. Distance is a big issue. We definitely want to do it as we don't want to bury them.</p> <p>EB – the 3 mines have the same project approval condition – to investigate other alternatives.</p> <p>MN noted that there may be forthcoming opportunities that he'd like to discuss in due time with the mines.</p> <p><b>Action 4 – MM to provide GPS coordinates for where the tyres are buried.</b></p>
Looking Ahead	<p>MM noted that rehabilitation on the emplacement areas will continue, including: completing the rehandle of material to enable bulk shaping; and topsoiling and seeding the northern emplacement area that is currently at landform establishment stage.</p> <p>Annual Reporting to be undertaken includes:</p>

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- a. EPBC compliance statement 2021 due in June 2022.
  - b. NPI and NGERs 2021 due in Sep and Oct 2022 respectively
- MM also stated that there will be ongoing reviews and implementation of Environmental Management Plans and BTM Complex strategies. And a review of the Environmental Management System will be undertaken.

RGi – What is the expected End of Life for the mine?

MM – Responded that it is 2030. EB – 2035 under the current Approval.

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DR observed that, being a Joint CCC, this committee has been set up to consider cumulative impacts. We've talked about the management strategies – water, noise, blasting etc. Are there any management strategies coming up for renewal?

EB – The Noise Management Strategy is in review between the three mines. Then to DPE for approval.

MN – In relation to carbon, do mines do their own cap on the carbon. Where do you buy credits from?

MM – We've never had to do that. People who have an excess of carbon credits. You apply through a regulator to buy the credits. \$15 to \$20 a tonne.

MN – Anyone around Gunnedah who would have those credits?

MM – When people get accredited. All through the Green Energy website.

## 6 Update on Government Reforms

DR notified members that the EPA has had the Protection of the Environment Operations (POEO) Clean Air Regulations on exhibition at present. Feedback has been sought from the community through [www.yoursay.nsw.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.nsw.gov.au). Submissions close on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

In addition, DR informed members about DPE's Rapid Assessment reforms to speed up the assessment of proposals as well as improve the quality of assessments. An accreditation system is to be brought in for practitioners who undertake environmental impact assessments (including modifications).

New guidelines have been developed. These include:

- Modifications Report guidelines (providing clarity of structure expected from DPE and page limits);
- Cumulative impact assessment guidelines;
- Updated social impact assessment guidelines; and
- Community engagement guidelines.

**Action 5 – DR to provide a summary of reforms.**

## 7 General Business

RGi – Asked about the hours a person can do – basically allowing from the time they leave home to the time they get back? Could they do 12-hours at Maules and then go and do another 12 somewhere else?

TB – No, they couldn't – the management plan is across all the sites.

RGi – What about if they are a contractor and left one coal mine? Wouldn't those hours just start again?  
Someone did 140 hours across a few sites.

SD – No real way of telling what everyone is doing.

TB – It's an honesty fatigue system as well.

Meeting closed at 3:08 pm

## 7 Next Joint CCC Meeting – 27 October 2022.

### Appendix 1

#### Action List

Page No	Action No	Action to be completed	Action Owner
1	1	On all Mines to ensure all employees are aware of responsibilities in regard to parties / fires.	ALL mines
2	2	DS to get details over to CR on the number of vacancies / positions available.	Darren Swain
2	3	TB to report back on the Fatigue Management system.	Talen Breaden
3	4	MM to provide GPS coordinates for where the tyres are buried.	Megan Martin
4	5	DR to provide a summary of reforms.	David Ross