

Community Consultative Committee

Meeting Held: 17 May 2018 from 2:00pm

Venue: Boggabri Golf Club

1.0 Welcome

David welcomed everyone to the Joint CCC.

2.0 Present and Apologies

Present: Andrew Johns (AJ) – Gunnedah Shire
Anna Christie (AC) – Environmental Representation, Maules Creek & Boggabri CCC
Blair Meyers (BM) – Tarrawonga Mine
Cameron Staines (CS) – Narrabri Councillor
Carolyn Nancarrow (CN) – Maules Creek CCC
Catherine Collyer (CC) – Community Representative
Colleen Fuller (CF) – Community Representative
Cr Robert Kneale (RK) – Narrabri Shire Council
Darren Swain (DS) – External Relations Superintendent, MCCM
David Ross (DR) – Independent Chair
Debbie Corlet (DC) – Independent Secretary
Geoff Eather (GE) – Boggabri Coal CCC
Hamish Russell (HR) – Boggabri Coal
Julie Heiler (JH) – Tarrawonga CCC
Libby Laird (LL) – Maules Creek & Boggabri CCC
Mitchum Neale (MN) – Boggabri Coal CCC
Peter Forbes (PF) – Boggabri Coal
Peter Wilkinson (PWi) – MCCM
Ray Balks (RB) – Boggabri Coal
Rebecca Ryan (RR) – Tarrawonga CCC
Richard Gillham (RGi) – Boggabri Coal CCC
Robyn Grover (RG) – CCC Alternate
Ron Campbell (RC) – Boggabri Coal CCC
Sarah Torrance (ST) – Boggabri Coal
Scott Mitchell (SM) – Maules Creek Mine
Sebastien Moreno (SB) – Tarrawonga Coal

Apologies: Cr Annie McMahon (AM), Cr Ann Luke (AL), Dan Martin (DM), Jack Warnock (JW), Kerrie Clarke (KC), Roz Druce (RD), Simmone Moodie (SM), Steve Eather (SE), Steve O’Donoghue (SOD)

EPA Guests: Lindsay Fulloon (LF), Rebecca Scrivener (RS), Megan Prowse (MP)

Observers: Andrew Wright (AW) – WHC, Kirsten Gollogly (KG) – WHC

Meeting opened at 2:05pm

3.0 Declaration of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

RC – Runs a waste management firm that contracts to Whitehaven and Boggabri Coal.

JH and RGI have properties that fall into the ‘Zone of Affectation’ for acquisition by Boggabri Coal.

GE – Has a son working for Boggabri Coal. RG – Has a daughter working for Maules Creek.

DR gets paid for chairing these meetings as does DC for typing the minutes.

4.0 Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Previous minutes moved by RN and seconded by JH.

5.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

DM - To provide a Draft Aboriginal Strategy to Boggabri CCC – finalised and placed on their website.

CC - To prepare a proposal for a combined Golf Day; unfortunately, has had to organise a Charity Golf Day for a community member which takes priority.

All mines to identify dams that RFS could use; DS, RGi and Tim Muldoon have been working on this and have developed maps. Maps to be provided to RFS shortly.

JH – Appreciative that two big tanks were donated by mines and compatible with the trucks.

LF – Emailed DR with the positions to apply for the Namoi Regional AQ Advisory Committee. Secondly, he personally took concerns about lack of consultation in relation to location of air quality monitors back to OEH. Finally, has asked relevant section of EPA to raise with ARTC issue of why trains idle in the middle of town.

6.0 Company Reports

Hamish Russell re Boggabri Coal

Correspondence

- DPE requested additional information to findings in the Independent Environment Audit, this was in the form of a Show Cause letter. As a result, two formal warnings have been received, sound power level monitoring and riparian stream health monitoring (macroinvertebrates).
- Approval received from the DRG on the 'New' Mine Operations Plan.

Attended Noise Monitoring

- Monthly monitoring conducted in February, March and April 2018.
- There were no exceedances of EPL or Project Approval criteria during the monitoring.

Community Complaints / Feedback

- 30 April 2018 - EPA received a community complaint regarding the amount of dust that was allegedly coming from Boggabri Mine. Information provided to the EPA, no specific site source identified.
- Currently investigating feedback from local landholders regarding impact to water supply because of the operation of our groundwater bores.
- NSW EPA inspection occurred this week. No material issues were raised.

Community Sponsorships 2018 YTD

- An array of sponsorships were described including Gunnedah Girls Academy, Boggabri Hospital, Drovers Campfire, and Maules Creek Campdraft, to name a few.

Other Business

- Bore Field Operation
 - Extraction from the 'Victoria Park' bore commenced in January 2018
 - Extraction from the 'Cooboobindi' bore commenced in February
- Road Usage Audit completed with data to inform a local road usage/site access traffic audit report
- Tree Clearing: approximately 67ha was cleared this season.

Questions from the Community

RGi – Look at tree planting areas. Where are some going to be planted. If over the gully, it is an area prone to flooding.

JH – Top of our paddock is ripped up. That will wipe us off if it does rain. There was no consultation. When there's a fire and trees are too close together – fire trucks can't get through as there are deep rips. How are we expected to produce crops, harbour for feral pests and weeds?

PF to discuss with JH where they are planting the trees and report back to next meeting.

JH – Do you have underground water coming into your pit?

HR – Yes, we do and yes, we have a licence.

JH – At Tarrawonga, they have water going to their pit with no metre / no gauge. How do you know how much is coming into your pit? You're getting groundwater but there are no monitors on it. Our water is metred – but you aren't quantifying.

HR – There is limited amount coming into the pit – less than 200 megs and we have 700.

LL – Question to Julie – Are you getting 3 trucks x 1500 a week.

JH – We just ring them when we need it – they are bringing it from Gunnedah.

PF – It comes from Boggabri.

AC – Rainfall is important. Does the model include allowance for the variation of rainfall?

HR – The answer is yes. Incorporated all elements of water – aquifer.

Darren Swain re Maules Creek

Approvals

- Annual clearing program carried out as per BMP. DPE inspection carried out.
- Sound Power Level (SWL) modification submitted 2017 – under assessment by DPE.

Environmental Management

- Ecological burns carried out. Ongoing Feral Animal and Weed Management.

Community

- Several Tours of MCCM carried out including:
 - Maules Creek Open Days – Family and Community days; Drivers Campfire Tours
- An array of sponsorships were described including Maules Creek Campdraft, Narrabri Science Hub support and Wee Waa Bush Bots, Girl Academy Gunnedah, Boggabri Girl Guides, to name a few.

Looking Forward

- Continued production targeting 13Mtpa within 3 years.
- FY18 production target is 11Mtpa ROM (Run of Mine). CY18 production target is 12Mtpa ROM
- Continued focus on local recruitment. Continued support of local community programs during 2017/18.

Questions from the Community

DS – ACTION – DS to provide dam maps to RFS once they are tidied up.

MN – The Girls Academy at Gunnedah – we tried to launch for the boys of the community as it is all girls at the moment. Need more for the boys as well. Community grants for doing that.

KG – WHC has conditionally committed the same amount of money to Clontarf – same funding for boys and girls. Donations can be requested via www.whitehavennews.com.au/donations-and-sponsorship. This explains policy and limitations. Applications for charitable donations or sponsorship – community@whitehavencoal.com.au.

JH – Was there a report of a flume?

DS – There was a blast on 6 April 18 – there was no fume in that blast.

JH – Why were people sent to hospital?

PWi – They took themselves to hospital and took themselves out of hospital.

DS – We've reviewed and provided to the regulatory authority.

LF – It's been investigated now, so I can't say much more.

AC – Can we suggest the hospital have an analysis kit. They swab the throat. Is it possible to investigate if that technology is available?

DR – 3 mines to consider and discuss with NSW Health if there is a swab that can be used?

PWi – Will take it on notice.

Sebastien Moreno re Tarrawonga Coal

Past 6 Months – Mining Operation

- Lease transfer completed with Boggabri Coal Mine (Northern boundary). Acquisition of the 30% Idemitsu share making Tarrawonga 100% Whitehaven owned.
- Ongoing review and implementation of: Management Plans and BTM complex Strategies.
- Rehabilitation: 2017 campaign (approx. 1,100 trees).

Looking Ahead - Mining Operation

- Production expected 0.9 Mt
- Local employment will continue as required
- Rehabilitation: 2018 campaign (approx. 2,400 trees and 12.8Ha according to MOP)
- Environmental Improvement and initiatives
 - Air Management (i.e.: Dust suppressant)
 - Water Management (i.e. Desilting, Gauge boards)

Questions from the Community

LL – Dust around Tarrawonga Dripping Rock Road – there is heaps of dust and lots of activity. There is nothing blocking all the dust. Tree planting up that side – you are generating a lot of dust into the community but not improving the dust suppression. Where are you planting trees?

SMo – Tree planting will be in the two rehabilitation areas on the northern emplacement and one in the southern emplacement. Have been trying out "Dust A-Side" to improve and control the dust levels. Water tank trucks are mixed with a biodegradable chemical (not a chemical really). Been using on a lot of sites around Australia. Just started that process a few weeks ago as we are trying to find the best methods.

BM – Southern dump – Goonbri Road visual. Rehabilitate that dump and doing some design work. 18-months to 2-year project to reshape that area.

MM – Which direction are you mining?

SMo – Towards the east.

DR – DPE is interested to find out how Regional Water Strategy is progressing.

HR – Still under review. We have provided feedback and waiting for return feedback.

AC – That's too vague – when you say it's under review. This Water Strategy is now 3 years overdue. We have serious water problems. What is blocking it / what are the obstacles for this Water Strategy?

SM – There are several other strategies that have been approved. There are several parties in the process. This is the last one that is not approved. Change in personnel at Tarrawonga – time to review that. SMo is assisting with making sure that is reviewed.

DR – So 3 mines – does it have to go back to the Dept?

SM – It will go to the Dept before the next meeting as will the Maules Creek as mines progresses. Things updated – new infrastructure etc. The Water Management Plan will be submitted before our CCC.

3 mines to ensure that Regional Water Strategy is submitted to DPE before next Joint CCC.

LL – We all have water problems. My understanding of the process – normally a company submits a document to the CCC and we provide comments. This Water Management Plan is with DPE and we as the CCC still haven't seen it. The Water Management Strategy is meant to be updated with DPE.

SM – BTM Water Strategy and Water Management Plans are reviewed annually but may not necessarily need to be updated annually. That is one that is being updated. BTM Water Strategy has no condition for CCC review.

6.0 Correspondence

Document tabled from LL - specific to water management at Maules Creek. ACTION – WHC to respond.

7.0 EPA Presentation by Lindsay

In Nov 17 I addressed the Joint CCC and members raised concerns about the lack of community consultation around the establishment of the Namoi Regional Air Quality Monitoring Network.

We heard these messages, EPA has now established the Namoi Regional Air Quality Advisory Committee to advise it on air quality matters and the operations of the network in the area. ***See Appendix 2 for all positions filled.***

The Committee will meet in June 2018. If you know of anyone to fill remaining positions, please ask them to get in touch. The community representatives from each local government area are there to represent community views. These people should therefore be used as the community's conduit to the Committee.

While the Minister committed to establishing monitoring stations in Narrabri and Gunnedah, this does not mean there aren't still opportunities that the committee can pursue to improve either the monitoring coverage or locations. It is important to consider the Minister's commitment to establish these monitors as the first step in this process that we can potentially build on to provide a network that meets expectations.

Key issues likely to be discussed at the first NRAQAC meeting include:

- Funding arrangements for the Namoi network, including who pays what?
- Results collected to date by both the new OEH monitors and the 4 industry monitors.

Dust regulation by EPA fact sheet – provided to those present. Establish context of EPA's role. Namely:

- State Significant project approvals issued by NSW Government (now the Independent Planning Commission – formerly known as the PAC) permit dust emissions from mine sites.
- Project Approvals limit emissions to criteria established by Federal Government processes (i.e. Ambient Air NEPM – National Environment Protection Council).
- Approvals require monitoring close to mines (to represent location of nearest residences) to ensure limits aren't exceeded. Data suggests compliance throughout the Namoi on all days except when a natural event of a regional scale occurs (e.g. dust storms, or bushfire).
- The EPA does however take a more direct/stringent approach by requiring the mines to minimise dust emissions at all times by applying current accepted best practice mitigation measures to individual dust sources. However, it is important to note that this still means there will be dust emissions from some sources at mine sites, as not all sources can be effectively fully mitigated.

CCC members to provide feedback to DR on whether fact sheet concept is useful.

Regulatory action re air quality issues – must be beyond reasonable doubt – what the cause is. Air quality affected by gravel roads, mines, fires, any other sources as well. Could be difficult to detect an exceedance was caused by a mine site. We have taken a different approach – we focus on the process and what the mines put in place to minimise the emissions. There will still be emissions from the site, there will be dust emissions.

When we receive a complaint – just because there is dust there doesn't mean there was a non-compliance. Communicating directly with the mine – we might also undertake our own inspections without letting the

mine know. That might explain some of the discrepancies people are noticing between the number of reports they are making and the number of complaints the mines are reporting to the CCC's.

CN – With the monitoring – are you going to be able differentiate between the different dust – mining vs agriculture.

LF – No, we are not capable of doing that. It measures total dust. Dust characterisation also very expensive – it took 12-18 months in the Hunter region. It involves ANSTO – very lengthy and very costly process. The air quality committee may wish to consider.

CN – Will the monitors have weather data as well.

LF – Yes, I believe they do and temperature as well. Equipment requires some of that information – individual incidence – not something we generally do for every single event.

JH – Who would pay for the monitoring? The mines give multiply royalties to the government – should come back to the areas impacted by the mining. If impacting on community's health etc – the royalties should be used for this.

JH – Dust level now acceptable by government standards but is it acceptable by the community. 5 years ago, was acceptable in Boggabri – no one expects it to be dust but with the 3 combined mines it is now unacceptable to those that living in it.

CC – Use of the roads – that dust is seen in the mornings – early morning change overs. Yes, it is a dust issue with the dry. Mining related dust needs to be addressed through the state government – better for employees / safety and wellbeing. We want to see from the EPA – how do they look at process of dealing with mining dust.

LF – Standards developed over a federal process. Process very rigorous. Governments make decision on social, environment and economic wellbeing. EPA is left to enforce those decisions.

CC – What is the process in place to look at the individual dust relating to roads?

LF – EPA's regulatory jurisdiction ends at the side boundary. Local Councils – Roads & Maritime Services are responsible for these issues.

LL – Railways – EPL rail link – pulling them into some monitoring along the coal line – diesel fumes. ARTC – lot of housing and schools along that line. Monitoring coal dust.

HR – Who does the ARTC monitoring.

LF – I can't answer as Armidale EPA office doesn't manage the ARTC licence – it is a state-wide licence managed by our Metro Infrastructure Branch. But the advisory committee to advise us on those sorts of issues. The committee examine those issues – opportunity in the future.

DR – Boggabri Coal – ARTC this morning – inviting them.

KG – ARTC Air Quality Consultative Group are part mining.

PF – Trying to understand in our CCC the noise issues – idea to get someone here regarding the EPL and its issues and how does it fit together. Really about informing people about how it all works.

DR to discuss who holds EPL with LF and invite someone to attend next Joint CCC.

RC – Will there be an Air Quality document – a conversation about the air quality through the machines you have around. Talking about lots of things but not about the air – maybe comparison?

LF – The Advisory Committee would be looking at air quality issues. Those reports have been done already – more data collected since then.

LF to send link to existing air quality reports.

7.0 General Business

Please note my clarification/correction to the Minutes of the Joint Coal CCC.

RC - Narrabri Road is a dog leg. Narrabri Shire Council is replacing the old Bridge structure at Barneys Spring Creek located on Main Road 357 (Rangari Road). The existing structure is located on a reverse curve 's'

bend, the new structure will be on a new straight alignment thus eliminating the current dangerous 's' bend.

The \$17 million is the estimated cost (following a recent study) of constructing and sealing the Rangari Road. Because of the study, the cost/benefit could not justify the construction and sealing of this road.

RK – The current 'Traffic Management' using the BRIFEN fencing road centre Barrier at the Whitehaven/Boggabri Coal Mine/rail line overpass on the Kamilaroi Highway north of Boggabri. The Brifen centre barrier has been damaged on several occasions, the damaged Brifen fencing presents a significant safety issue to Highway traffic.

Narrabri Shire Council has written to the RMS requesting an investigation into the current Traffic Management at this location, with a view to improving the safety of highway traffic. The RMS has advised NSC this investigation is prioritised.

CS – Question for all mines – can some consultation go on with the high schools in the area. Year 10 students showing potential for engineering, electronics, mechanics etc – AGCAP – tertiary education.

DS – Slightly different area but we support Narrabri Science Hub to help develop STEM subjects.

CN – Tarrawonga and Boggabri Coal – Braymont Road needs to be avoided.

RGi - Biodiversity needs to be revisited. We won't see it, but in 20-years' time – that farm will be worth little – has a family with all the pigs and wild life.

JH – My boys are 4th generation – you have destroyed us because of the trees. I know they are doing this because it is in the approvals. It's not just affecting us as farmers – we've lost too much productive farmland, no long-term future for our community. Needs to be reassessed.

ACTION – DR to raise issue of biodiversity conditions with Steve O'Donoghue.

RGi – I'd like to pat everyone on the back for the contributions – Drovers Camp Fire – Waste Disposal and to Maules Creek for 2 bus load tours – it was great. Health – a lot of blokes have no one to talk too – divorces happen a lot. Mental Health needs to be addressed – need someone to talk to some neutral.

KG – Health Employee Assistance Program – independent counsellors available 24/7 phone.

PF – We have similar.

AC – To RGi and JH – planting in inappropriate places – where is this happening. This highlights to me that we need to have a better approach. I would love to come along and see these areas that are wrongly planted.

ACTION – AC to discuss plantings further with RGi and JH.

MN – To all the 3 mines – Environment Assessment had requirements to meet. Aboriginal Heritage Assessment has to be done.

HR – It is on our website but under implementation as we have to go out to the community for the Aboriginal Heritage Assessment.

MN – I mean the value assessment – did you consult with the Aboriginal community to get the story of that hill to that hill?

AC – Does the Boggabri water model assume a variation of rainfall with the possibility of drought etc? No climate variability simulated that they applied a steady average range – severe drought that can last for years. How is WHC going to respond – model did not include this?

ACTION – mines to identify if water models factor in climate variability.

RC – I have been approached by TAFE regarding a new Aboriginal training initiative. They were keen to talk to the mines about it.

ACTION – RC to discuss with DS

Other Business

1st November. Due to Mining Expo from 1 to 3 November 2018. Possibility for Joint CCC on the Wednesday 31 October 2018 or maybe the week after. DR will discuss with three mines and CCCs.

Meeting closed at 4:48pm.

Action List

Page No	Action No	Action to be completed	Action Owner
3	1	PF to discuss with JH where they are planting the trees and report back to next meeting	Peter Forbes
4	2	3 mines to identify if fume analysis kit technology exists	All mines
5	3	3 mines to ensure that regional water strategy is submitted to DPE before next Joint CCC	All mines
5	4	Document tabled from LL - specific to water management at Maules Creek.	WHC to respond
	5	CCC members to provide feedback to DR on whether fact sheet concept is useful	All CCC members
6	6	DR to discuss who holds EPL with LF and invite someone to attend next Joint CCC	David Ross
6	7	LF to send link to DR for existing air quality reports	Lindsay Fulloon
7	8	Two mining companies to look into AGCAP support (lead by DS)	Darren Swain
7	9	DR to raise issue of biodiversity conditions to Steve O'Donoghue	David Ross
7	10	AC to discuss plantings further with RGi and JH	Anna Christie
7	11	Mines to identify if water models factor in climate variability	All mines
7	12	RC to discuss Aboriginal training with DS	Ron Campbell

Appendix 2

Namoi Regional Air Quality Advisory Committee

	Name	Description
1	Mr David Ross	Chair
2	Ms Marcella Lopez	Narrabri Shire Council representative
3	Ms Carolyn Hunt	Gunnedah Shire Council representative
4	Ms Donna Ausling	Liverpool Plains Shire Council representative
5	Mrs Catherine Collyer	Community Environmental Interests, Narrabri LGA rep
6	Mrs Collen Fuller	Community Environmental Interests, Gunnedah LGA rep
7	Assoc. Professor Craig Dalton	Hunter New England Health representative
8	Ms Leah Cook	Dept of Planning & Environment representative
9	Mr Peter Forbes	Industry representative for Idemitsu
10	Ms Kirsten Gollogly	Industry representative for Whitehaven

The following positions remain vacant:

- Community Environmental Interests representative, Liverpool Plains LGA;
- NSW Farmers representative;
- Industry representative for Shenhua-Watermark;
- Indigenous Community representatives for:
 - Narrabri,
 - Gunnedah (Red Chief) and
 - Quirindi (Nugaroo) Local Aboriginal Lands Councils