

Narrabri Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting #72

Date: Wednesday 11th March 2026
Time: 4:00pm
Location: Narrabri Coal Operations Boardroom

Meeting Commenced at 4:00pm

1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Russell Stewart (RS)
Peter Webb (PW)
James Stieger (JS)
Mark Foster (MF)
Geoff Hunter (GH)
Bruce Danson (BD)
Alan Grumley (AG)
David Ellwood (DE) – Whitehaven Coal
Brent Baker (BB) – Whitehaven Coal
Ben Simpson (BS) – Whitehaven Coal
Harriet Davies (HD) – Whitehaven Coal
Neville Paxton (NP) – Whitehaven Coal
Jabin De Keizer (JDK) – Whitehaven Coal
Grant Case (GC) – Whitehaven Coal

Apologies:

Cr Ryan Whillas – Narrabri Shire Council

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations.

No changes from previous.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES

RS asked if everyone had read previous minutes.

RS asked for previous minutes to be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: JS Seconded: MF

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil.

5. OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT

- BS read out the operations and safety report

Production

- Coal production sits at approximately 4 million tonnes.
- There is a target of 6.2 million tonnes total production before the next longwall move.

Safety Performance

- There have been 6 reportable injuries year to date.
- DE explained that a reportable injury includes any injury requiring medical treatment, such as stitches, medical glue, prescribed medication, or similar minor treatment.
- It was noted that this represents a significant decrease from last year.
- This is a decrease in numbers from last year and this has been attributed to improvements and investments in the underground workings which include, but are not limited to; improved safety standards, concreting of underground roadways, better lighting and job rotation of employees. Good standards = good safety.

Operations

- MF asked whether there were any outages or major services planned in the coming months.
- DE advised that there is one planned five-day outage scheduled to change out the cylinder legs of the longwall.
- Other than this, only general maintenance is planned until the longwall move scheduled for October–November 2026.

Surface Infrastructure Works

- BB and DE mentioned several major surface infrastructure projects currently underway on site.
- Construction of a new ventilation shaft in the south-east corner of the mine is progressing, with infrastructure being delivered to site.
- DE explained that the first 9 metres of the shaft are currently being drilled, referred to as the “pre-sink” stage.
- This pre sink work is expected to be completed within the next month, after which drilling will continue to sink the shaft to its full depth of approximately 200 metres.

Powerline Construction

- BB advised that construction of a new powerline from the pit-top area to the eastern shaft will commence shortly.
- DE commented that all clearing of the powerline corridor has already been completed, and work will begin to drill holes for the power poles.
- The substations and ventilation fans have already been delivered to site.
- Once the shaft has been fully sunk (estimated timeframe of approximately 12 months), construction of the ventilation fan infrastructure will commence, currently targeted for January 2027.
- JS asked if it is NCO who are constructing and working on the powerlines at Bow Hills. DE confirmed this is not NCO.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT

- Each member of the CCC meeting is provided the environmental monitoring report two weeks in advance
- RS asked if there were any questions about the report? There were no questions about the monitoring report.

7. WHC COMMUNITY UPDATE

- JDK discussed community investment activities for the reporting quarter.
- A total of \$96,609 was provided in community partnerships and donations during Q4 (September 2025 – December 2025)
- Narrabri was the largest beneficiary of funding during this quarter
- It was explained that the application for grants and donations requires individuals or community groups to apply to Whitehaven Coal, outlining the purpose of the funding request and the amount of funding sought for the proposed project improvement or purchase.

Modification (MOD) 2

- DE discussed MOD 2 of the Stage 3 Project.
- This MOD proposes to extend the cut and flit (CF) mining area. A map of the proposed extension area was displayed to the CCC.
- The current CF operations are expected to end around 2029, and the MOD 2 proposal seeks to extend mining further east within the mine lease.
- Mining under the MOD 2 would continue as a single miner CF operation and would extend operations until approximately 2044, aligning with the expected end of longwall mining at NCO.
- DE explained that CF mining allows for greater operational flexibility, allowing mining to navigate around geological faults.

- The modification application includes predicted subsidence of approximately 100 mm, which was described as minor. Approximately 2 cm of subsidence has been measured to date in the existing CF area, although this may increase slightly and will continue to be monitored.
- Lower subsidence levels occur because coal pillars are left in place, which act as support.
- AG asked for clarification on mining width, and DE advised that 32 m pillars are left between mined areas.
- DE noted the proposal is not expected to significantly change the amount of water entering the mine, as the area has already been depressurised, and it is not expected to significantly affect greenhouse gas emissions.
- The modification is expected to take approximately 12 months to progress through the government approval process.
- The proposal remains within the existing NCO mining lease, with four currently planned to support concrete placement, power supply, gas drainage and services.
- Borehole locations have been selected to minimise surface disturbance and avoid vegetation where possible.
- A fact sheet has been prepared for Modification 2, with plans to distribute it to stakeholders in the coming months.

INCIDENT AND REGULATOR SUBMISSIONS – via a PowerPoint

- Reported incident details presented by BB.
- BB noted that following commencement under Stage 3 Development Consent was a requirement to review all Environmental Management Plans. As a result, a number have been revised and re-submitted to regulator for approval.
- Revised Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) has been approved. Key updates include the nominated locations of the TEOMs, which are now the compliance monitoring locations under the AQMP:
 - o The HVAS monitors have been removed as they are no longer required under the AQMP. The TEOMs monitor PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} in real time and provide a more effective method for measuring mine-generated dust.
 - o Depositional dust are no longer required under the AQMP. One depositional dust monitoring location will remain at ND3, located on Bow Hills, as required under the EPL licence.
- GH asked whether the CCC would be able to view the TEOM reports. BB advised that NCO is not required to provide the data directly, however results will be reported in the Annual Review and the CCC environmental monitoring reports.
- RS questioned whether the recent dry period has recorded elevated readings. BS confirmed the TEOMs have not shown an increased trend in dust generated.
- An EPL licence variation was approved at the end of 2025. The variation also includes a reduction in the number of noise monitoring locations and proposed a change in noise monitoring methodology. The EPA approved the reduction in monitoring locations, however changes to the noise monitoring methods have not yet been approved and will remain unchanged until DPHI approve the updated Noise Management Plan.

- JS questioned whether this change would make it harder to get more reliable results now that the monitoring time has been reduced. BS explained that it would not.
- The Annual Water Report was submitted on 31.12.2025. This is required under the Federal EPBC approval for the period ending 31.12.2026 is available online on the NCO website.
- RS asked whether PFAS testing is undertaken at NCO. BB confirmed that NCO is not required to test for PFAS and that all fire suppressants used onsite are PFAS-free.
- JS queried the drilling methods and whether PFAS had historically been used during drilling activities. DE explained that drilling at NCO is generally undertaken using compressed air rather than drilling mud (except for one borehole), and therefore PFAS has not been used.
- RS: any further questions? No

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- MF asked for an update on the solar farm project. JDK confirmed it is still being assessed by the DPHI.
- DE confirmed that Stage 3 payment has been made to Narrabri Shire Council. NCO are yet to receive an invoice from the Gunnedah Shire Council.
- GH asked for updates on the make good agreements. BB confirmed there have been no further updates and there are still two make good agreements outstanding
- RS asked if Darren Swain, General Manager for Community Engagement at WHC was leaving Whitehaven. JDK confirmed that he will be leaving at the end of April 2026

9. ACTIONS FROM MEETING

- WHC- to distribute the fact sheet SSD-10269 Modification 2 consultation to neighbouring community members

Meeting close at 16:56

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 3rd June 2026, 4:00pm Narrabri Mine