

Narrabri Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting #64

Date: Wednesday 13th March 2024

Time: 5:15pm

Location: Narrabri Coal Operations Boardroom

Meeting Commenced at 5:15pm

Present: Russell Stewart (RS)
Ian Duffy (ID)
James Stieger (JS)
Peter Webb (PW)
Bruce Danson (BD)
Geoff Hunter (GH)
Cathy Redding (CR)
Geoff Hunter (GH)
David Ellwood (DE) – Whitehaven Coal
Ben Simpson (BS) – Whitehaven Coal
Harriet Davies (HD) – Whitehaven Coal
Brent Baker (BB) – Whitehaven Coal
Gerald Linde (GL) – Whitehaven Coal

Apologies:

Alan Grumley (AG)
Darren Swain (DS) – Whitehaven Coal
Jabin De Keizer (JDK) Whitehaven Coal

Moved: RS Seconded: PW

1. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations.

Moved: RS Seconded: PW JS

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

RS asked if everyone had read previous minutes.

RS asked for previous minutes to be accepted as a true and accurate record. Everyone present at the meeting agreed that the minutes were true and accurate.

Moved: RS Seconded: GH and CS

2.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

MEETING ACTIONS		
Person	Action	Due
BB	Add noise monitoring for the Bow Hills property to the 2023 Annual Review	Completed. Included in 2023 Annual Review
DE	Obtain number of new apprentice spaces.	Completed
HD	Include new GW monitoring bores and graphs in the next CCC meeting	Completed
DS	Investigate land management on properties, feral animals, fencing	Completed. Detail provided in presentation

- JS asked about NCO's feral animal baiting program due to increased pig sightings. HD confirmed two baiting programs by NCO in late 2023 and January 2024, with plans for ongoing baiting. DE mentioned trials of aerial shooting on offset properties but noted challenges due to dense vegetation. Aerial shooting isn't viable on the mine lease due to safety regulations.

Moved: RS Seconded: PW

3. OPERATIONS PROGRESS REPORT AND SAFETY UPDATE

Presented by GL

- GL presented the production figures to date. Production is reduced due to challenges the LW has faced with unfavourable geological conditions; stone intrusions and washouts within the LW panel.
- 103 First Aid (scratches, bumps etc) 6 medical treatments, 2 restricted work due to an injury at work 1 lost time injury FY24 to date.
- There have been successful results with labour hire throughout the company. Recruitment continues with 25/30 vacancies open across the business. Slower production has resulted in reallocation of tasks underground so night hire recruitment has been paused and rotas and employees reallocated work within the underground operation.
- JS asked how long until the LW passes the fault and production increases. GL gave an explanation of the geological formations, the stone intrusion and the washouts concluding that they will be present throughout the LW203 panel.

- The Brine Dam has been completed and commissioned with continuing testing.
- Ventilation shaft drilling has commenced on southern mine lease boundary, located above LW205.

4. STAGE 3 UPDATE

Presented by DE

- DE updated on the progress of the stage 3 project.
- There has not been much change with the PA as per the last CCC meeting. The court case was finalised in September however, a second appeal from the Environmental Justice Australia (EJA) was lodged. The new court case was in February 2024. Following the court case, the project goes back to the Minister for approval and signature.
- The construction of the ventilation shaft sinking has commenced. ASD are the contracting company constructing the shaft, the same company who constructed the first shaft. The shaft goes from the surface to the underground, and should take roughly one year to complete. The shaft sits above LW205. DE explained the basics to how the shaft is developed.
- DE mentioned that make-good agreements are still in progress, with six out of nine signed and a verbal agreement in place with the seventh pending paperwork. One landholder requested additional investigation on a bore. GH asked about next steps if agreements aren't signed. DE explained that NCO must make best endeavours to reach agreement with affected landholder, if an agreement cannot be reached then either party can refer the issue to the planning secretary.
- GH expressed community concerns about trust in NCO's independent testing for GW bore investigations. GH asked if there is scope for NCO to fund landholders to test their bores independently. DE discussed process of building the groundwater model for the purpose of undertaking the groundwater assessment, and this is why a single consulting company is preferred. GL stated that NCO have followed the environmental assessment process required by government. DE advised GH that NCO would be willing to speak with any concerned landholders regarding bores that may be potentially impacted. GL assured that NCO's contractors were selected impartially and are selected on their professionalism to ensure no bias is involved.
- BD affirmed the existence of baseline bore data for each installation. DE clarified that the government's bore registration system provides much of this data, but many unregistered bores lack baseline information, prompting the field surveys and landholder engagement.
- PW proposed landholders accompany groundwater experts during data collection from their bore. There was general agreement that this is a good recommendation, and DE stressed NCO's active encouragement of such participation.

5. UPDATE ON APPROVALS

Presented by BB.

- EPA: EPL12789 License Variation approved (05/02/24) to include wet weather discharge point for western shaft sediment dam.
- Resources Regulator: Exploration License 6243- Activity Approval granted (02/02/24) for exploration work program. NCO are delaying the Exploration License 9455 & 9456 program due to budget restraints.

- NRAR (Natural Resources Access Regulator). Conducting audit on NCO compliance with non-urban water metering rules. They are visiting NCO in April 2024 for a site visit.
- DPE- NCO received a warning Letter issued 17/01/24 due to a failure to implement Energy Savings Action Plan. The Greenhouse Gas Minimisation plan was reviewed and approved 21/12/23 which also includes the Energy Savings Action Plan.
- Groundwater Impact Assessment- approval granted to assign additional 650 shares in Gunnedah-Oxley Basin MDB Groundwater source to account for indirect take as a result of mining. This brings total assigned shares to 1,871 ML/year.
- GH inquired about NCO's Greenhouse Gas Minimization plan and their efforts to reduce emissions. DE mentioned ongoing trials, such as using mine-produced gas for algae growth, which proved successful. There are plans for potential flaring of pre-drainage gas and sealing old underground workings to minimize gas leakage.

Bush Fire Concern

- GH and local landholders expressed concerns about perceived lack of support from WHC during the December 2023 bushfires. They felt they didn't receive the assistance they requested from WHC.
- In response to this concern, GL emphasised that the request to NCO was, "Do you have firefighters" to which NCO response was "No". GL emphasised that NCO staff are to be kept safe. Narrabri Mine enlisted trained firefighters through a contracting company for asset protection at Narrabri Mine, but regulations limit employees involvement due to restrictions and legislation.
- GH highlighted concern about WHC's significant landholding in the area, leading to labour shortages during events like this. GH advocated for improved management of WHC properties before catastrophes to ensure better preparedness for all involved.
- CR expressed admiration for the decision that GL and NCO for the decision to not engage employees for firefighting purposes due to safety concerns.
- DE firefighting is unsafe for untrained people.
- JS suggested controlled back burning and other management methods with the large amounts of land that WHC have within the area.
- GL: NCO and Forestry NSW have been planning for several years for a coordinated hazard reduction burn along the boundary of Mine Lease and Jacks Creek State Forest. However unfavourable weather and forest conditions delayed the planned burn; this is ultimately Forestry NSW decision.
- BB advised CCC that WHC representatives attended daily Local Emergency Committee briefings. Narrabri Mine offered assistance in the form of water supply from site dams to be made available for resupply of helicopter water bombers, and provision of graders to improve Scratch Road firebreak.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT

Presented by BS. All CCC members receive a hard copy of the environmental monitoring report.

- ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS: BS
 - No reportable incidents to regulatory agencies since previous CCC meeting.

- COMPLAINTS:
 - 1 complaint to the local land services
- DEPOSITIONAL DUST:
 - 2023 annual average (year to date) for all monitoring locations are below the licence limit.
 - Analysis of February 2024 results have not been finalised by the laboratory. March 2024 samples are due to be collected 14.03.2024.
- PM10 AIR QUALITY:
 - No exceedances of the 24-hour limit within last 12-month period at both Turrabaa and Claremont monitoring.
 - Rolling 12-month average currently below annual average limit for the two monitoring locations (Claremont and Turrabaa).
- QUARTERLY NOISE MONITORING
 - Q1 2023 - monitoring 11th – 14th March. The report will follow - EPA to receive this data within 30 days of obtaining the sampling results.
- SURFACE WATER MONITORING: No discharge events since the previous CCC meeting.
- WATER LICENSING
 - Presented graphs showing NCO water licence allocation usage.
 - Levels below licenced allocations.
- GROUNDWATER MONITORING –
 - The new groundwater bores were sampled in December 2023 / January 2024. Access was prohibited to the Pilliga in December 2023 due to bushfires.
 - Presented Hydrographs for groundwater monitoring locations.
 - AGE and recalibration of the GW model and review underway.
- SUBSIDENCE MONITORING
 - Lidar data was taken in December 2023. A suitably qualified professional is reviewing the data against subsidence predications, due in March 2024.
 - All monitoring results fell within modelled predictions.
- REHABILITATION

- 7.1 hectares from beginning of year (2024) to date.
- GH asked why the NCO are using a lot less licensed water. GL explained that lower production resulted in less water demand, in addition the efficiency of water treatment plant on-site results in more water reclaimed from underground dewatering.
- GH asked about the recalibration of P16. BB advised this is addressed in the 2023 Annual Review. GH requested copy of report to review prior to next CCC meeting.
- No further questions/comments from members.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- RS asked who assists with the bore water for Baan Baa and if NCO was involved. CR was it NCO? CR confirmed that this is Narrabri Shire Council (NSC) and that said person should contact NSC directly for assistance.
- No other general business

8. COMMUNITY

Darren Swain and Jabin de Keizer expressed their apologies as they unable to attend Q1 CCC meeting.
No more business

Meeting Closed at 18:18

MEETING ACTIONS		
Person	Action	Due
BB	GW Model recalibration report and Annual Review to be issued two weeks prior to next meeting for members to review.	05/06/2024
BB	Update on the Solar Farm Progress	Q2 CCC Meeting

NEXT MEETING

19th June 2024, 5:15pm in the Boardroom, NCO

Narrabri Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting #65

Date: Wednesday 19th June 2024

Time: 5:15pm

Location: Narrabri Coal Operations Boardroom

Meeting Commenced at 5:15pm

Present: Russell Stewart (RS)
Ian Duffy (ID)
James Stieger (JS)
Peter Webb (PW)
Geoff Hunter (GH)
Mark Foster (MF)
Alan Grumley (AG)
Jabin De Keizer (JDK) Whitehaven Coal
David Ellwood (DE) – Whitehaven Coal
Ben Simpson (BS) – Whitehaven Coal
Harriet Davies (HD) – Whitehaven Coal
Brent Baker (BB) – Whitehaven Coal

Apologies:

Bruce Danson (BD)
Grant Case (GC) – Whitehaven Coal

Moved: GH Seconded: PW

1. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

RS asked if everyone had read previous minutes.

RS asked for previous minutes to be accepted as a true and accurate record. Everyone present at the meeting agreed that the minutes were true and accurate.

Moved: GH Seconded: PW

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

MEETING ACTIONS		
Person	Action	Due
BB	GW Model recalibration report and Annual Review to be issued two weeks prior to next meeting for members to review.	05/06/2024 – Completed
BB	Update on the Solar Farm Progress	Q2 CCC Meeting – Completed

BB outlined Agenda for meeting and advised groundwater consultants are available from 5:30pm-6:00pm, therefore would bring forward environmental report to run through quickly.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT

Presented by BS.

All CCC members receive a hard copy of the environmental monitoring report.

- 2023 Annual Review was submitted to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) on 28 March 2024 and accepted 31st May 2024. The Annual Review is available the WHC website.
- ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS:
 - 2 reportable incidents to regulatory agencies since previous CCC meeting.
 - Annual Review 2023 identified a non-compliance with Air Quality Management Plan with regard to High Volume Air Sampler (ND10) failing to measure PM₁₀ on four occasions during 2023. An investigation was completed which determined that the missed sample events have not resulted in the potential for environmental harm and highly unlikely to have resulted in a breach of air quality criteria of Project Approval 08-0144. Non-compliance was reported to DPHI in March 2024 resulting in no further actions.
 - PM₁₀ elevated reading at ND9 'Claremont' was recorded on 12 March 2024 measuring 69.1µg/m₃ (all sources). Investigation determined that for approximately 11% of the 24-hour monitoring period wind directions were from direction of Narrabri Mine pit-top with wind speeds less than 2m/s during this period, therefore, NCO determined that the measurement is unlikely to be the result of dust generated by mining activities and do not consider the exceedance to be a non-compliance with the Project Approval criterion. This was reported to DPHI in April resulting in no further actions.

- COMPLAINTS:
 - 0 complaints during this period
- DEPOSITIONAL DUST:
 - 2023 annual average (year to date) for all monitoring locations are below the licence limit.
- PM10 AIR QUALITY:
 - Rolling 12-month average currently below annual average limit for the two monitoring locations (Claremont and Turrabaa).
- QUARTERLY NOISE MONITORING
 - Q2 2023 - monitoring 3rd – 7th June. The report will follow - EPA to receive this data within 30 days of obtaining the sampling results.
- SURFACE WATER MONITORING:
 - 2 controlled discharge events from sediment dam (SD9). Discharge results were in the compliance limits.
- WATER LICENSING
 - Presented graphs showing NCO water licence allocation usage.
 - Levels below licenced allocations.
- GROUNDWATER MONITORING –
 - 2023 Annual Groundwater Review and Groundwater Model Recalibration Report- presented by consultants Australasian Groundwater & Environmental Consultants.
 - Refer to discussion below
- SUBSIDENCE MONITORING
 - No monitoring events scheduled since previous meeting.
- REHABILITATION
 - 6.3 hectares from beginning of year (2024) to date.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- GH requested more information in regards to the Annual Review and the air quality monitoring program that is conducted on the mine site.
 - BS explained 2 x TEOM's are required for the Stage 3 and will be commissioned by the end of 2024, pending supply availability. The explanation included the proposed location of the TEOM's, and that real time data is attainable.
 - AG expressed concerns in regards to the air quality and the potential coal dust that settles on his property. AG asked how the Australian Standard for air quality is established. BS confirmed that it is a national health standard adopted by the state.

- BB explained that WHC have not received any recent complaints about the air quality of the mine.
- GH confirmed that dust has previously been raised as a concern by the community and remains an ongoing issue.
- RS acknowledged the concern and asked the committee and mine site representatives how to proceed and what actions can be implemented.
- BB encouraged AG to raise this as an official concern. BB assured that the dust monitoring results have been compliant, including the deposited dust monitor that is positioned at AG's property.
- JS stated that that standard for measuring dust is ineffective. A discussion regarding the method used to sample organic matter commenced. JS emphasised that this issue has been raised in previous years and committee meetings.
- BB assured that a significant effort goes into the monitoring program and reports that are generated. NCO responds to complaints as they are raised.
- GH suggested implementing regional dust monitoring that includes Baan Baa. He noted that while WHC is adhering to the regulations, if the company truly wants to integrate into the community, a certain level of going "above and beyond" is required.
- AG reiterated his concern for his family's health and also requested the house ground water bore to be tested for quality.
- BB advised that NCO can undertake additional investigation JS into alleged coal dust impacts at AG residence. JS requested if his property could also be included in this investigation and additional testing.
- RS requested to be kept up to date on progress and outcomes of investigations.
- GH requested more information on the Warning Letter (issued by Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure) in relation to the Energy Savings Actions Plan (ESAP) mentioned in previous meeting, GH requested a copy of letter. GH queried when the original plan (ESAP) was written and exactly what had been implemented.
 - BB explained that they received DPHI request for information into alleged non-compliance. WHC demonstrated that the commitments within the ESAP had been generally adhered to. The DPHI investigation/s have been closed and NCO were issued a Warning Letter. In addition, the GHGMP has been reviewed and now incorporates ESAP; the revised plan has been approved by DPHI.
 - DE provided an explanation around the GHG emissions generated by the mine. These included pre-drainage and ventilation processes. NCO are reviewing VAM¹ abatement periodically and have recently completed an assessment on suitability for application at NCO; DE explained that it is not currently viable but will be reviewed as the operation continues. NCO are in the process of refining design of flaring infrastructure for use on pre drainage but noted that the CH₄ content of emissions from current mining areas would not support operation of flare. The pre-drainage

¹ VAM: Ventilation Air Methane- a mixture of low levels of methane and other hydrocarbons that is discharged through the mine ventilation fans to atmosphere above ground.

gas composition will change as the mine progresses into new areas, and this may enable emission reduction by use of flare, hence the design and purchasing processes underway. Other notable initiatives include the replacement of two diesel generators with mains power supply, additional sealing of underground roadways of mined panels to reduce emissions, all of the electricity that is used onsite is certified carbon neutral. WHC must reduce GHG emissions by 4.9% every year from a baseline set as an average of the previous four years prior to the safeguard mechanism commencing. WHC plans to purchase their first Australian Carbon Credits (ACCU's) in the next few months.

- Note added post meeting to address GH query:

DPHI investigation into a non-compliance reported in the 2022 Independent Environmental Audit concluded that NCO committed an offence against section 4.2(1)(b) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* by carrying out development not in accordance with the conditions of the development consent, namely failing to implement conditions of the Energy Savings Action Plan (2014) during the 2022 Annual Review reporting period. DPHI assessed the breach and noted that NCO partially met the intent of the ESAP 2014 and there was no known harm to the environment. A Warning Letter is an informal action where a breach has been established and DPHI have determined that no formal action is warranted under the circumstances. NCO have provided the committee detail on the outcomes of the regulator investigation and are not required to provide a copy of the formal correspondence in this matter.

4. GROUNDWATER PRESENTATION

- Summary of the outcomes from the following reports were presented by Australasian Groundwater & Environmental Consultants:
 - Narrabri Mine 2023 Annual Groundwater Review
 - Narrabri Mine Groundwater Model Re-calibration Stage 2 MOD7
- BB introduced the ground water specialists- Keith Phillipson and Peiter Labuschagne representing AGE. This presentation was made available by NCO to provide opportunity for CCC members to seek clarification and ask questions on the groundwater reports that were shared with them prior to this CCC meeting (as per request form previous meeting).
- KP presented the content of the Annual GW review summarising the key groundwater formations, the groundwater monitoring network and measured groundwater levels and how they are trending against the groundwater model trigger levels.
- KP explained the background and reasons for the groundwater model recalibration, and outcomes of recent recalibration focusing on groundwater drawdown trigger levels.
- Following on from the presentation, KP welcomed any questions.
- GH requested an explanation into the re-calibration. GH questioned why a recalibration enables trigger levels to be adjusted when it is apparent the drawdown is a result of mining.

- KP explained that the trigger exceedance on only a couple of bores suggests that there may have been an underprediction of drawdown. Recalibration happens every five years regardless of results and by having more data, subsequent predictions are more accurate.
- There were no further questions. RS closed out and thanked AGE.

5. OPERATIONS PROGRESS REPORT AND SAFETY UPDATE

Presented by BB

- Longwall production has overcome recent setbacks, and coal processing and railing has increased.
- 9 apprentices currently employed.
- Report on safety performance statistics for FY24.

6. STAGE 3 UPDATE

Presented by DE

- DE updated on the progress of the Stage 3 project.
- The latest court case has concluded with the judge rejecting the appeal. However, this decision has been appealed once more to the High Court of Australia. DE informed the committee that this appeal is expected to delay approval by at least 9 months and could potentially extend the delay by another 2 years before the case is finalised and the minister chooses to approve it. The matter is currently with the federal government.
- DE advised that there are 2 make good agreements that are yet to be finalised. Members of WHC are discussing with one of the landholders next week.
- DE confirmed that the monitoring bores for Stage 3 have been installed.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- RS read an email from BD regarding his perceived conflict of interest due to his position on the CCC and the negotiations on the make-good agreement for a groundwater bore on his property that is predicted to be impacted by Stage 3. DE and other committee members expressed that this situation does not require BD to step down from his role on the committee. RS assured the committee that he would respond to BD.
- RS –proposed a 4pm start time for future CCC meetings. A motion for the change of start time was raised by GH and seconded by JS.
- GH requested that next meeting to include discussion on aspects of the 2023 Annual Review report. BB suggested GH and other CCC members provide a list of items they wish to discuss prior to next meeting, as the Annual Review report addresses a broad range of environmental performance matters.
- No other general business

8. COMMUNITY

- JK introduced himself and his role explaining that he is the Whitehaven Coal Community Relation Manager. JK is based in the Gunnedah office.
- JK delivered a presentation on the proposed Whitehaven Solar Farm Project, located adjacent to Narrabri Mine.
- Preparation of the environmental impact statement (EIS) is underway for a proposed submission in early 2025.
- The solar farm will provide 1/3 of the power to the mine with a 10MW hour battery.
- The solar farm is a state significant development.
- Specialist surveys have been undertaken, including an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) which found several items including grinding grooves.
- A Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for the project has also been conducted, which concluded that the impacts of the project could be mitigated or managed.
- Powerline to be built over the road.
- The panels have been designed to allow for sheep to graze underneath, but not cattle. JS questioned this and requested further investigation into this matter. JK responded that these questions have already been addressed and confirmed that cattle will not be accommodated.
- RS: requested Narrabri businesses to be considered for contractors for the construction of the solar farm. RS believe more Gunnedah businesses are employed by NCO than those from Narrabri and does not think this should be the case.
- GH: asked if the tender for the project has been opened. JK confirmed that they are not yet out.

Meeting actions over-page

MEETING ACTIONS		
Action	Person Responsible	Due
JS requested a paper copy of the annual review	WHC- Ben Simpson	Prior to next CCC meeting
AG requested his house bore to be dipped and the water quality tested. AG would like to be present when the bore is tested	WHC- Ben Simpson	Action to be arranged privately with AG. CCC will be updated on action status at next meeting.
JS and AG would like an investigation into alleged coal dust impacts at their properties. RS requested to be kept up to date on progress and outcomes of investigations.	WHC- Ben Simpson	Action to be arranged privately with AG and JS. RS to be updated as investigation progresses. CCC will be updated on action status at next meeting.
2023 Annual Review discussion in next meeting- Questions or comments to be provided to NCO prior to next meeting to allow presentation and discussion to be prepared.	CCC- Geoff Hunter	Prior to next CCC meeting
JK to source information on the number of trucks that are required for the construction of the solar farm	WHC- Jabin de Keizer	Next CCC meeting

Meeting ends at 6:43pm

NEXT MEETING

11th September 2024, 4:00pm.

Narrabri Mine- Boardroom

Narrabri Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting #66

Date: Thursday 12th September 2024
Time: 4:00pm
Location: Narrabri Coal Operations Boardroom

Meeting Commenced at 4:00pm

1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Russell Stewart (RS)
Ian Duffy (ID)
James Stieger (JS)
Mark Foster (MF)
Alan Grumley (AG)
Cathy Redding (CR)
Jabin De Keizer (JDK) Whitehaven Coal
David Ellwood (DE) – Whitehaven Coal
Ben Simpson (BS) – Whitehaven Coal
Grant Case (GC) – Whitehaven Coal
Brent Baker (BB) – Whitehaven Coal

Apologies: Geoff Hunter (GH)
Harriet Davies (HD) – Whitehaven Coal

Moved: JS Seconded: AG

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. Everyone present at the meeting agreed that the minutes were true and accurate.

JDK provided amendment to Point 4 of Community section – the date of EIS submission should be early FY2025, not early 2025.

Moved: MF Seconded: JS

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

MEETING ACTIONS			
#	Person	Action	Due
1	JS requested a paper copy of the annual review	WHC- Ben Simpson	Complete – posted 20 June 2024.
2	AG requested his house bore to be dipped and the water quality tested. AG would like to be present when the bore is tested	WHC- Ben Simpson	Sampling completed 28 August 2024. Results received 12 September 2024, to be provided to AG.
3	JS and AG would like an investigation into alleged coal dust impacts at their properties. RS requested to be kept up to date on progress and outcomes of investigations.	WHC- Ben Simpson	Sampling completed 20 August 2024. Water testing results were provided to AG and JS on 29 September. RS was provided summary of results. Dust analysis still awaiting results, ETA October 2024.
4	2023 Annual Review discussion in next meeting- Questions or comments to be provided to NCO prior to next meeting to allow presentation and discussion to be prepared.	CCC- Geoff Hunter	Provided questions 10 September 2024. Discussed further at this Meeting.
5	JK to source information on the number of trucks that are required for the construction of the solar farm	WHC- Jabin de Keizer	Complete. JDK advised that average of 5 heavy vehicles deliveries per day (i.e. 10 heavy vehicle trips on road network).

AG – HD was contacted regarding recharge rate of house well. Well does not fill up as quickly as it used to. BB will engage a hydrogeologist to conduct bore investigation. RS – Are you satisfied with this action? AG – Yes.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT

Presented by BS.

Environmental monitoring report was provided to all CCC members two weeks prior to CCC meeting.

- COMPLAINTS

- 0 complaints during this period
- DEPOSITIONAL DUST
 - 2024 annual average (year to date) for all monitoring locations are below the licence limit.
- PM10 AIR QUALITY
 - Rolling 12-month average currently below annual average limit for the two monitoring locations (Claremont and Turrabaa).
- QUARTERLY NOISE MONITORING
 - Q3 2024 - monitoring 2nd – 6th September. The report will follow - EPA to receive this data within 30 days of obtaining the sampling results.
- SURFACE WATER MONITORING
 - No controlled discharge events occurred during period.
- WATER LICENSING
 - Levels below licenced allocations.
- GROUNDWATER MONITORING
 - Refer to environmental monitoring report.
- SUBSIDENCE MONITORING
 - No monitoring events scheduled since previous meeting.
- REHABILITATION
 - 6.9 hectares from beginning of year (2024) to date.

5. OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT

Presented by GC.

- Reported on production statistics
- Report on safety performance statistics for FY24.
- Report on current staffing – Apprentices 10.

BB presented CHPP Traineeship success story and summary of regulator visits

- Resources Regulator – EL6243 audit completed in May.
- EPA – 5 yearly licence review – completed in July – EPA determined NCO are ranked A1 (lowest possible risk).
- Resources Regulator – ML1609 audit completed in August
- No non-compliances or issues raised from regulator site visits.

6. STAGE 3 UPDATE

Presented by DE

- DE updated on the progress of the Stage 3 project.
- The matter is currently with the federal government.
- The High Court has rejected the special leave for appeal. Back at the Minister for approval.
- Environmental Justice Australia (EJA) were the objectors.
- DE advised that there are 2 make good agreements that are yet to be finalised. Members of WHC are discussing with one of the landholders next week.
- DE confirmed that the monitoring bores for Stage 3 have been installed.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a) RS read GH email to CCC Members with respect to the Annual Review (Action Line 4).

BB responded to GH email.

What is the plan for the subsidence ponding in one of the earliest seams?

- Subsidence pond identified impact from the project environmental assessment. Current pond extent mapped and generally in accordance with project environmental assessment.
- Biodiversity offset strategy accounts for indirect impacts to vegetation as a result of subsidence.
- Management measures require ongoing monitoring of subsidence ponds covering surface area changes, water quality, vegetation health, and wildlife. Previous government consultation recommends a minimal intervention approach in managing ponds, with a focus on monitoring and adaptive management dependent on monitoring outcomes. Ponding in areas with affected vegetation to be assessed and remedial actions that present the lowest environmental impact developed.
- Hydrological study completed in 2022 for conceptual drains targeting ponded sections of Pine Creek (LW104-LW108) where vegetation is showing signs of impact. Drains designed for minimal scour. Require 2m deep drain, with 20m wide buffer for construction. Outcomes of study identified the construction of drains will result in increased environmental impacts to native vegetation, damage to known (and unknown) aboriginal heritage sites, excavation of creek channel and potential for degradation of Pine Creek geomorphic stability, water quality, flows, and ecology.
- Ongoing monitoring indicates
 - o Creek line surveys have not detected any significant change in morphology or increases in erosion to creek banks
 - o Downstream surface water quality in Pine Creek not exceeding Water Quality Management plan trigger levels

You are still including an enclosed flare as an option to reduce GHG's and my understanding was this is not possible?

- Work continues towards procurement of a flare for application in gas pre-drainage applications where CH₄ levels are above 30%.

Are you still looking at CCS and gas separation?

- Gas separation and utilisation:
 - o Proof-of-concept study completed. Outcome indicates that energy required for process would result in greater CO₂ emissions than would be reduced through the use of technology.
- Carbon Capture Sequestration:
 - o Study completed.

You mention a total of 54 feral pigs killed and that numbers are low which does not seem to be the experience of neighbours.

- 2023 feral animal control program results:
 - o Mine Lease - 54 Hoggone baits taken
 - o Narrabri Mine biodiversity properties- 2,226 baits laid. 850 baits consumed. Further 50 feral pigs trapped and removed.
- 2024 feral animal control program:
 - o Mine Lease- Quarterly baiting program
 - January - 21 confirmed kills
 - April - 22 confirmed kills
 - August - 27 confirmed kills

JS – Comment to CCC that he is pleased with the results NCO have achieved with pig baiting. Suggested NCO investigate other control options (e.g. trapping).

BB – Responded that NCO will review other feral pig control options.

- b) JDK provided update on Solar Farm Project. All assessments for EIS have been completed. Development application to be submitted to state in next 4 weeks.
- c) BB outlined to CCC the Whitehaven Coal STRIVE values of Safety, Teamwork, Respect, Integrity, Value and Excellence. BB asked that committee members keep these in mind during the meetings and ensure that all participants are treated with respect and fairness, regardless of gender or background.

Meeting close at 4:44pm

NEXT MEETING

4th December 2024, 4:00pm.

Baan Baa Pub

Narrabri Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting #67

Date: Wednesday 04th December 2024

Time: 4:00pm

Location: Baan Baa Hotel

Meeting Commenced at 4:00pm

1. PRESENT AND APOLOGIES

Present: Russell Stewart (RS)
Ian Duffy (ID)
James Stieger (JS)
Mark Foster (MF)
Alan Grumley (AG)
Bruce Danson (BD)
Geoff Hunter (GH)
Peter Webb (PW)
Joshua Roberts-Garnsey- Narrabri Shire Council
Jabin De Keizer (JDK) Whitehaven Coal
David Ellwood (DE) – Whitehaven Coal
Ben Simpson (BS) – Whitehaven Coal
Grant Case (GC) – Whitehaven Coal
Brent Baker (BB) – Whitehaven Coal
Harriet Davies (HD)- Whitehaven Coal

Apologies:

Mayor Darrell Tiemens

Moved: JS Seconded: MF

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. Everyone present at the meeting agreed that the minutes were true and accurate.

Moved: JS Seconded: MF

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: Nil

4. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REPORT

Reportable Incidents:

BB outlined recent groundwater monitoring results had reported exceedances of Water Management Plan water level and quality trigger levels. In accordance with Water Management Plan the exceedances have been reported to DPHI and a hydrogeological investigation has commenced.

GH queried exceedances. BB discussed P11 groundwater level drawdown and initial hydrogeologist comments.

BB explained that when hydrogeological investigations are complete the CCC will be notified of outcomes.

Environmental Monitoring Report presented by BS (environmental monitoring report was provided to all CCC members approximately two weeks prior to CCC meeting).

BS outlined installation of 2 x TEOM monitoring devices in preparation for Stage 3, these will measure PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀. Air quality specialist identified suitable monitoring locations. GH queried status and locations of devices. BB/DE explained these monitoring devices are to align with new Stage 3 approval increased monitoring requirements to align with contemporary government standards.

BS- Informed CCC of milestone with rehabilitation, that all surface disturbance over northern longwall panels has been rehabilitated.

RS- Are there any questions on Environmental Monitoring Report? NONE

5. OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT

Presented by GC.

- Very good safety performance since last meeting. Reclassified 2 x Restricted work injuries, reduced from 8 FYTD down to 6.
- Production- good production
- No significant change in manning numbers.
- Mine will continue to produce to mid-January, then longwall move for 2 months through to mid-March.

- JS queried if Development to continue during move. GC- yes this is correct however ratio of development coal produced per week significantly lower than longwall. GC mentioned there is still coal on stockpile so railing will continue during the longwall move.
- RS- Are there any questions on Operations and Safety Report? NONE

6. STAGE 3 UPDATE

Presented by DE

- DE- reviewing conditions issued by State & Federal. Noticed inconsistency with wording to reduce biodiversity impact for species credits. MOD1 to introduce minor change to wording on reduction on biodiversity impacts. Also change to mine plan with mine sequencing and timing for staging of offsets- to split Phase 6 into three separate parts. Change to B40 wording to enable reductions for all species credits. Scoping letter submitted, will be on DPIE website. Modification requires a physical change to mine aspects, therefore removing southern ventilation shafts.
- JS- discussed how mine will manage ventilation without the southern vent shafts. DE and GC explain that all ventilation will occur from shafts planned at southern extent of 200 series panels.
- GH queried biodiversity offset process. DE explained process about timing for different phases. GH asked if we have offsets secured. DE- we are in process of securing Phase 1,2,3 that are required for initial surface disturbance. Looking to commence Stage 3 on 01 July 2025, then will be a series of payments to retire credits so that we can commence surface disturbance, then as we move further west will have to secure additional phases. GH queried how much land will require. Discussion on biodiversity offset calculation method, phases and timing of disturbance and process of securing biodiversity credits prior to impact occurring.
- JS queried Transport NSW monitoring at mine intersection. DE outlined Stage 3 approval requirement to upgrade intersection and that work on preliminary design has commenced. JS would like to review draft design with respect to culvert placement.
- RS- Are there any further questions?
- GH queried any changes to surface access as a result of MOD1. DE no changes to access on surface, all access to surface areas of mine will continue to be through pit-top.
- GH queried land acquisition for biodiversity and asked if non-forested areas would be subject to acquisition? DE said we still have to offset native grassland, but not areas that have previously been cultivated. GH is offset requirement 1:1 or 2:1? DE the ratio depends on government biodiversity credit calculator and species dependent. DE- ultimately Stage 3 project is required to result in a positive biodiversity outcome.
- GH queried Make Good Agreements. DE- no changes to current status. Still 2 agreements to execute. DE advised NCO has been having discussions with these landholders, but agreements have not progressed. DE explained that company is required to make best endeavours to have an agreement in place within 2 years of commencing. GH queried bores outside impacted area, and GH has been talking to other landholders and tried to encourage them to come forward for baseline testing, however current progress with one landholder has been far from encouraging, the landholder expected he would have had a pump test done by now and feels underwhelmed. GH thinks if NCO can do a better job with this landholder it would encourage others to come forward. BB advised we have visited and recorded water level and quality at the landholder in question. GH thinks it is good to set

baseline data before project starts, depth and water quality, but pump test also. BB explained we have offered to revisit the bore on annual basis to measure standing water level. BB advised bore in question was not deemed to be impacted by greater than 2m drawdown and therefore testing to determine flow rate is not a requirement. GH that's what we want to establish, that what the groundwater model shows is accurate, and if in 5- or 10-years time there is a change we know why.

- GH queried GHG emissions and research program over next 5 years, is there anything further? DE- no additional projects added since last meeting. DE advised close to signing order for manufacture of flare. GH didn't think you could flare currently. DE explained not currently with current gas composition but would start manufacture now as there is a lead time (1-2 years) to construct, and modelling shows that in a few years the area being mined may have gas levels that would enable use of flare. GH so you are going to construct it even though may not be able to use it. DE yes, it is an approval requirement. GH nothing else progressing? DE advised the site Decarbonisation Engineer is continuing to look at current and potential projects, however, acknowledges CO2 is a difficult to abate. DE discussed underground project where sealing mined panels is resulting in reduction of emissions, estimated 50-60,000 tonnes, however outside that in terms of tangible large scale emissions abatement there is nothing viable at the moment that has positive cost-benefit. BB outlined work on Stage 3 requirement for a Scope 1 Emissions Minimisation Plan. DE advised another emissions project completed is transition of 2 diesel generators to electricity, DE explained that all electricity sourced from grid is offset by using carbon-neutral power supplier, or green electricity. GH queried Solar Farm EIS progress. JDK advised EIS is being assessed, and if approved it would assist in reducing emissions by reducing reliance on mains supply. GH has this been included in the Greenhouse Gas Minimisation Plan? DE/JDK explained that as Solar Farm is not yet approved it can't be considered a requirement or linked to Stage 3 project approval conditions.
- RS- any more questions? NIL

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

- RS- Queried JS and AG if dust investigations requested during previous meetings have been completed?
- JS- yes I have results, good report. ~3% coal dust. Results same as last time it was completed (at start of mining operations). JS would like different methodology but accepts it is completed to recognised standards. AG not happy with outcome. RS queried AG that if the mine has demonstrated compliance with government mandated levels, then what do you suggest is still required? AG commented that he believes compliance levels are set by someone in Sydney that make it easy for the mine to comply.
- BB advised air quality monitoring results are well below compliance limits across the entire monitoring network, this includes AG and JS residences. Stage 3 approval will impose increased monitoring requirements.
- BD - says that he has brand new tanks and a brand-new roof and there is black sediment in bottom of tank. BB advised BD that this is the first NCO has heard of this.
- RS- Question to AG, given that mine has presented results and confirmed that monitoring is within compliance limits, what do you need to do now, take the issue further? AG what's the point we would have to spend money on solicitor and mine would just say it is compliant.

- BD we feel if we raise an issue, it is meaningless as the results show the mine is compliant. JS the 2009-2010 analysis didn't go to the detail it is now and feels the recent investigation is an improvement and that mine is operating within approval limits.
- GC- Question to AG so what do you think is the solution to your concern? AG- don't know that is on you.
- GH- should implement a regional dust monitoring network. BS- this won't assess levels of coal dust.
- BS- Mine is operating well below air quality criterion and results don't show there is a dust issue. AG- that's because the levels are set to suit the mine. BS- the levels are standard applied by NSW government for all operations across the State. MF- how do we know that coal dust is not coming from another mine in the region? BB- investigation included a control sample of a residence in Hunter Valley 20km from nearest mine and coal levels in dust at that site were ~4% and comparable to AG and JS samples. GH- your air quality results are demonstrated to be below limits but you still have community who are reporting dust concerns. BS- question to AG what do you want us to do?
- RS- how do we see this moving forward. RS states NCO are doing everything they are required to do, and remind CCC that WHC don't set the limits. RS- so how do we help AG? RS asked AG to have a think about how he sees this progressing and come back with options.
- RS called for other general business.
- GH – is there any news on the solar farm? JdK states Solar Farm EIS had been lodged, DPPI had requested some clarification on minor details which is being prepared. GH reiterated support for the solar farm and that it was a good initiative.
- RS- congratulations to Whitehaven Coal for winning Narrabri Chamber of Commerce 2024 Business awards. Category 1- business supporting other local businesses.
- RS- Reminder that on 13th December is the Narrabri Chamber of Commerce Christmas Street Carnival. Thanks to Whitehaven Coal as the major sponsor.
- RS- any other general business?
- JDK- the Narrabri Mine local traineeship story was shared with Narrabri Courier and story was reported in paper.
- GH- Whitehaven Coal land leasing. Hearing some concerns that leasing rates have gone up.
- RS- thanked committee members for contribution during the year and wish you all a Merry Christmas.
- BB- on behalf of Narrabri Mine and CCC thanks to RS for serving as Chairperson for another year.

Meeting close at 5:00pm

NEXT MEETING

12th March 2025, 4:00pm.

Narrabri Mine