

# Minutes of Rocglen Coal Mine

## Community Consultative Committee – Meeting #39

**Meeting Held:** Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023

**Venue:** Gunnedah Whitehaven Office

**Commencement Time:** 2:00pm

### Present and Apologies

#### Present:

John Sturgess (JS) – Independent Chairperson  
Rod Barnes (RB) – Community Representative  
Trevor Worboys (TW) – Community Representative  
Bhavika Khot (GSC) – Town Planner  
Andrew Raal (AR) – Closed Mines Superintendent  
Olivia Hulbert (OH) – Environmental Advisor  
Rahul Korattiyile (RK) – Environmental Graduate  
Darren Swain (DS) - General Manager Community Engagement

#### Apologies:

Mr Wade Hudson (GSC) – Senior Development Officer  
Mrs Pam Burns (PB) – Community Representative  
Clr Colleen Fuller (CF) – Community Representative  
Daryl Robinson (DR) - Manager (Environmental & Mine Rehabilitation)

### Previous Minutes

Minutes accepted as true record of the motion. Accepted by John and Andrew.

### Review of Environmental performance and mine progress report

OH – Blast monitoring is no longer required as mining operations have ceased. Blast monitors have been decommissioned.

OH- Noise monitoring is no longer required on-site, no complaints received.

OH- All monitoring points for depositional dust were below criteria.

AR – Part of the EPL requirement should be that the annual mean for depositional dust is below  $4\text{g}/\text{m}^2$  month.

OH – High Volume Air Samplers measure PM10 which is particulate matter 10 micrometres or less in diameter. Costa Vale HVAs monitor has been removed, with Roseberry as the remaining monitoring point.

AR– PM10 are very fine particles of dust that pose a health risk if inhaled. Rocglen has an EPL limit of  $50\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for a 24hr period.

OH – One exceedance since last meeting with a reading of  $321\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

AR –Exceedance due to activity not related to the mine. The paddock the monitor is located in had recently been ploughed. The exceedance was reported to the Regulator and includes details of mining operations, water cart usage and wind direction.

AR – Groundwater levels have remained consistent with rainfall. Mine has been backfilled.

AR – Final rehabilitation is expected to be completed by the end of this year, with rehabilitation monitoring continuing after final rehabilitation is complete.

OH – Rocglen has two discharge locations one to the North LDP12 and one to the South LDP11.

OH – Controlled discharge is where water is discharged after quality requirements are met, including pH, EC, Oil and grease and total suspended solids no greater than  $50\text{mg}/\text{L}$ . Wet Weather discharges are following 38.4mm of rainfall within 5-day period.

OH – There were eight wet weather discharge from Dam SD3 through licenced discharge point LDP11, and two wet weather discharges from Dam B through licenced discharge point LDP12, there were four controlled releases from SD3 through licenced discharge point LDP11, and six controlled releases from Dam B through licenced discharge point LDP12.

TW – Where is the Northern discharge point located?

OH – Northern discharge point is at the north west corner of the boundary.

OH & AR – There was one event during the wet period last year where water was discharged from site through LDP11 with a total suspended solid reading over  $50\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  following 26mm of rain. It occurred at the time the region was declared a natural disaster zone and access to site was cut-off. Regulators were notified.

AR- With the majority of site rehabilitated, the sediment load entering dams has decreased. The floods delayed rehabilitation however we are still on track for final rehab end of 2023.

OH – No complaints have been made from community.

OH – Current ecosystem establishment is represented in green on the map, yellow represents landform which totals 18.4ha and 6.6ha remaining for landform. 14,560 seedlings have been planted between September 2022 and August 2023.

AR – Any concerns and questions?

AR – Dozers are GPS guided for precise landform.

AR – The main demountable office in Rocglen will be re-located to Vickery Mine.

JS – Can we meet in February next year for the next CCC meeting once rehabilitation is complete?

OH & AR – Yes, we can schedule a site tour for the next meeting to be held February 2024.

DS – Where will the operators be re-located to?

AR – Operators in Rocglen will be re-located to other Whitehaven sites, some possibly retiring.

RB – The boundary fence between my farm and Barock is made with poor quality resulting in animals entering my property. They have filled in dams in the Whitehaven properties resulting in animals entering my property for water. 80 acres of barley consumed by kangaroos. This is only going to get worse when the trees they have planted grow and the area becomes a woodland.

AR & DS – The purpose of the Biodiversity Land is to offset land that has been mined. They need to comply with regulations imposed by federal government.

AR – Kangaroos will actively seek out food and water during drier periods.

DS – Contractors responsible with the fence are no longer employed by Whitehaven.

RS - They need to provide better quality fences or pay for damages.

DS - I'll follow up with Trevor in Biodiversity team regarding with the boundary fence.

JS – Anything else?

### **General Business**

#### **JS – Next meeting will be organised**

Next meeting will be held February 2024 and will include a site visit

**Meeting closed: 14:40**

# Rocglen Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting #39

## Environmental Monitoring Report September 2022 – August 2023

### Noise Monitoring

Attended noise monitoring is no longer required for the site. There were no noise complaints or investigations

### Blast Monitoring

Blasting at the operations has ceased and blast monitors have been decommissioned.

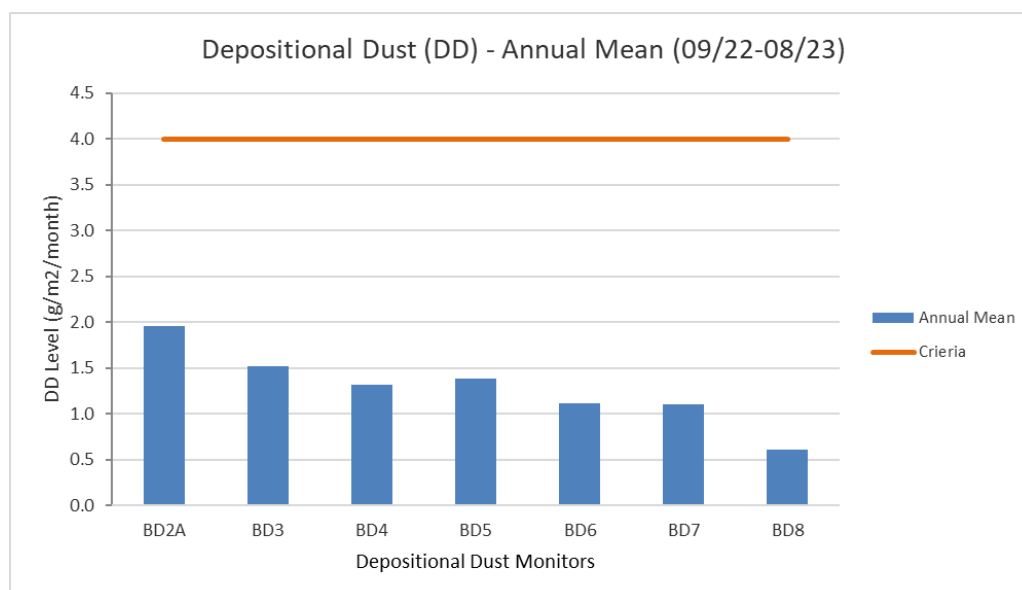
### Air Quality

#### Deposited Dust Results

The deposited dust monitoring had mean values below the set criteria at all sites.

**Table 1: Deposited Dust Monitoring Data Summary September 2022 – August 2023**

Site	EPL I.D. No.	Property Name	Annual Mean Total Insoluble Solids (g/m <sup>2</sup> /month)	Mean Ash %
BD3		Belah	1.5	47
BD4	4	Surrey	1.3	58
BD5		Stratford	1.4	57
BD6	6	Roseberry	1.1	49
BD7		Roseglass	1.1	52
BD8		Yarrowonga	0.6	48
BD2-A		Penryn	2.0	43



**Figure 1: Depositional Dust (09/22-08/23) Mean Values**

## **PM<sub>10</sub> Results**

**Table 2: Summary High Volume air sampler (HVAS) at Costa Vale and Roseberry**

<b>Sites</b>	<b>Roseberry (01/09/22-09/08/23)</b>
No. of readings	58
No. days above criteria	1
Maximum	35.1 (EXCLUDING 321)
Minimum	<0.1
Average	6.4

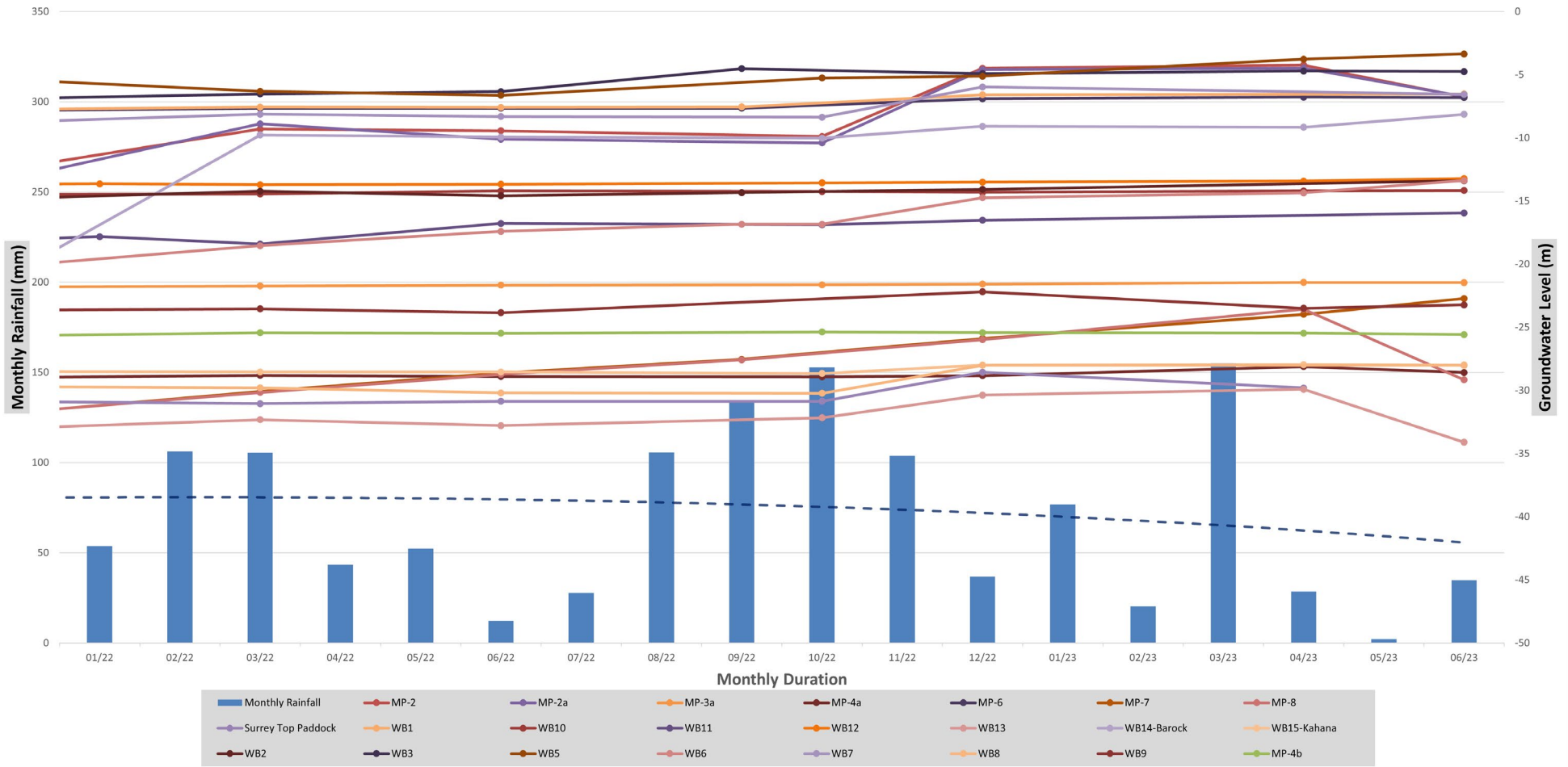
An exceedance occurred on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023, which showed a reading of 321µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The Department of Planning and Environment were notified of this exceedance and identified as not mine related.

## **Water Monitoring**

### **Groundwater**

Groundwater levels have fluctuated throughout monitoring period, directly linked to rainfall.

### Rocglen Mine Coal Groundwater level with Precipitation



## **Surface Water**

There are two Licenced Discharge Points (LDPs) nominated in the current EPL 12870, LDP11 to the south of the site, and LDP12 to the north of the site.

**Wet weather discharge** is where more than 38.4mm of rainfall occurs within 5-day period.

**Controlled Release** is where water dams at discharge points are full and actively pumped off site after quality requirements are met. Flocculation of the dams is undertaken where required remove sediment load.

### **Wet Weather Discharges during reporting period**

There were eight wet weather discharge from Dam SD3 through licenced discharge point LDP11, and two wet weather discharges from Dam B through licenced discharge point LDP12.

### **Controlled Releases during reporting period**

There were four controlled releases from SD3 through licenced discharge point LDP11. There were six controlled releases from Dam B through licenced discharge point LDP12 in this period.

On 22 September 2022, RCM released water via LDP11, after receiving 26.6mm of rain. Water exceeded EPL limits for Total Suspended Solids (TSS), measuring 3,480mg/L, a retest of the sample returned a value of 1,980mg/L. This was due to the floods in the area, being declared a disaster zone, with the floods preventing access to site and management to rainfall event.

Action was taken by diverting water into the mine void to help reduce the flow of the drain into SD3, which was the final sedimentation dam, as a temporary measure.

## **Complaints**

No community complaints have been received since last CCC meeting.

## **Rehabilitation**

Remaining landform across site is 6.6ha emplacement and 18.4ha in the void followed by seeding the areas to achieve ecosystem establishment. Seeded with woodland mix of grass, shrub and tree species as well as oats as an initial cover crop. A total of 14,560 seedlings have been planted across newly established rehab on areas of the western void and western emplacement and infill planting around the perimeter of the eastern void, and southern section of the northern emplacement.

## **Other**

- Site operations still limited to bulk earth moving using dozers. Dozers are currently working on final landform of southern void.

