

## **Minutes of the 36th Meeting of the Sunnyside Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee**

**Meeting Held:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 15:30

**Venue:** Namoi Valley Brickworks

**Present:** Michael Broekman [MB] (Chairperson), Andrew Raal [AR] (Superintendent - Closed Mines WHC) and Olivia Hulbert [OH] (Advisor Rehabilitation & Closed Mines WHC) Lizzette Fergusson [LF], Colleen Fuller [CF] and Rod Fuller [RF].

**Apologies:** Gunnedah Shire Council

### **General Business:**

AR - Tyres now gone. Sunnyside Hill is now Narrabri Stage 3 offset. Highwall drain yet to be completed.

CF - Highwall slope. I noticed it is very high and from a wildlife point of view I am concerned.

AR – HW drain will be established which will reduce erosion risks.

MB – This design is approved by Resource Regulator and they actually don't like loose dirt being pushed against the wall which can result in strata failure. This then means it is sometimes a decision as to whether you want a stable high wall or strata failure issues.

AR – Recently submitted WMP update which addresses removal of 2 dams which will bring site within harvestable rights.

CF – takes a while to get those approved.

AR – yes it takes time.

RF – Is the ROM pad gone so there is no more coal onsite?

AR – No more coal, ROM has been rehabilitated. A number of test pits were done over the clayey soils which is the material used for capping the carbonaceous material and everything came back good. We have had some Spontaneous combustion issues previously. As a result of this we were required to cap the carbonaceous material with 5m soil rather than the standard 3m.

RF – Yes, I remember that left hand side going up from Coocooboonah was all on fire previously as a result of spontaneous combustion.

AR – We need to discuss the bypass for the haul route. Coocoobonah Lane was leased by Whitehaven off previous owner of Plainview. We had an agreement from the previous

owner that we would buy it and give to council. Plainview property then sold. There are temporary signs up saying private property and therefore there is no access along the bitumen haul route. We now use the old dirt road.

LF – I noticed previously that when the new Coochoonah road was established, the old Coochoonah lane was fenced off and closed.

MB – I assume it was due to traffic hazards at entrance to Mine with traffic moving down both roads. Now the old Road will be established as new road?

AR – Yes, the bitumen road has been blocked by the new owner of Plainview with private property signs.

AR – We had a night infra-red koala drone survey done. No koalas were picked up. Disease and drought are too much.

OH – We have had two sightings in the last 6-months at the old Brickworks Mine site.

### **Environmental Report:**

AR – No noise monitoring or blasting. Air quality we had one dust bucket exceed. It was reported to regulator who provided no comment. PM10 is sampled every 6-days and picks up small occupational dust. No exceedances for PM10 dust. Groundwater monitoring, if you look at the graph, they are all rising due to rainfall at the end of last year. You can see it is picking up over the monthly average also. Mine void has been backfilled 15-20m above pre-mining groundwater level so no permanent groundwater seepage. The void is also made free draining. Going forward there will be no impact on groundwater. For surface water we will be removing 2 of the dams so when the property is handed over/ sold it is compliant with harvestable rights.

CF – Do they plan to sell the Sunnyside Mine property?

AR – Maybe in several years' time it will be sold, it has to meet regulator requirements first.

AR - We are noticing an increase in pigs so we will be looking at more fauna control.

AR – Remaining works include highwall drain and pasture trials with cows are planned. All slopes will be woodland and flat areas will be pasture. It will be on a campaign basis. Moving cattle on and off property, allowing the vegetation to recover, go to seed and then re-introduce cattle when appropriate.

LF – That sounds like a great idea. National Parks need to look at doing that more as well.

MB – We are interested to see how the Highwall works go

AR – We can schedule a meeting onsite for the next annual CCC so you can look at the work if you like.

DF - They should have blown the Highwall wall down after mining.

AR – Unfortunately it was mined too far into the hill that there wasn't the opportunity to blast the wall down as it would have affected the habitat above. We will look into establishing vegetation and doing some trials.

LF – It will be interesting to see where the site is at in 5 years and if trees have established.

**Meeting Closed:** 16:00

# Sunnyside Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting #36

## Environmental Monitoring Report July 2022 – January 2023

### Noise Monitoring

No noise monitoring carried out. Site activities were limited to weed treatment (spraying and slashing), tree planting and minor drainage works.

### Blasting

There has been no blasting during the reporting period, all site blasting has ceased.

### Air Quality Monitoring

#### **Deposited Dust**

The annual averages for deposited dusts at all monitoring locations remain below the criteria of 4g/m<sup>2</sup>/month average over the reporting period. One site exceeded annual average criteria due to agricultural activities in the paddock where the dust gauge is located. High dust values were reported to Dept Planning.

**Table 1:** Depositional Dust gauge readings 0- Insoluble Matter g/m<sup>2</sup>/month

| Month  | SD1      | SD3        | SD4      | SD5     | SD6     | SD7       | SD8      |
|--------|----------|------------|----------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|
|        | Ferndale | Plain View | Lilydale | Ivanhoe | Illili  | Innisvale | Woodlawn |
|        | (EPL 1)  | (EPL 2)    |          | (EPL 4) | (EPL 5) | (EPL 6)   |          |
| Aug-22 | 1.97     | 41.71      | 0.23     | 1.04    | 0.36    | 0.32      | 0.35     |
| Sep-22 | 6.68     | 1.97       | 0.28     | 0.65    | 0.33    | 0.42      | 0.36     |
| Oct-22 | 9.66     | 1.08       | 0.34     | 0.55    | 1.21    | 0.59      | 0.25     |
| Nov-22 | 11.02    | 0.44       | 0.37     | 1.76    | 0.66    | 0.7       | 0.61     |
| Dec-22 | 1.98     | 1.35       | 1.21     | 1.95    | 1.32    | 1.67      | 1.47     |
| Jan-23 | 1.4      | 0.54       | 0.44     | 2.14    | 0.5     | 1.21      | 0.75     |

### Dust PM<sub>10</sub> Data

PM10 dust levels are taken every 6 days at Sunnyside. Table 2 below details each reading over the reporting period. There were no exceedances.

**Table 2:** Illili PM10 High Volume Air Sampler results

| Date      | µg/m <sup>3</sup>        | Date      | µg/m <sup>3</sup> |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 15-Jul-22 | 1.6                      | 25-Oct-22 | 10                |
| 21-Jul-22 | 0.2                      | 31-Oct-22 | 0.4               |
| 27-Jul-22 | 3                        | 6-Nov-22  | 0.1               |
| 2-Aug-22  | 0 (Error – water damage) | 12-Nov-22 | 10                |
| 8-Aug-22  | 0.1                      | 18-Nov-22 | 3.7               |
| 14-Aug-22 | 0.4                      | 24-Nov-22 | 9.7               |
| 20-Aug-22 | 0.9                      | 30-Nov-22 | 15.9              |
| 23-Aug-22 | 4.3 (make-up sample)     | 6-Dec-22  | 22                |
| 26-Aug-22 | 2.1                      | 12-Dec-22 | 15.4              |
| 1-Sep-22  | 11.3                     | 18-Dec-22 | 4.8               |
| 7-Sep-22  | 7.3                      | 24-Dec-22 | 3.1               |
| 13-Sep-22 | 0.1                      | 30-Dec-22 | 11.1              |
| 19-Sep-22 | 5.2                      | 5-Jan-23  | 13.2              |
| 25-Sep-22 | 5.2                      | 11-Jan-23 | 10                |
| 1-Oct-22  | 4.4                      | 17-Jan-23 | 11.4              |
| 7-Oct-22  | 9.5                      | 23-Jan-23 | 13.8              |
| 13-Oct-22 | 10                       | 24-Jan-23 | 0.7               |
| 19-Oct-22 | 7.3                      |           |                   |

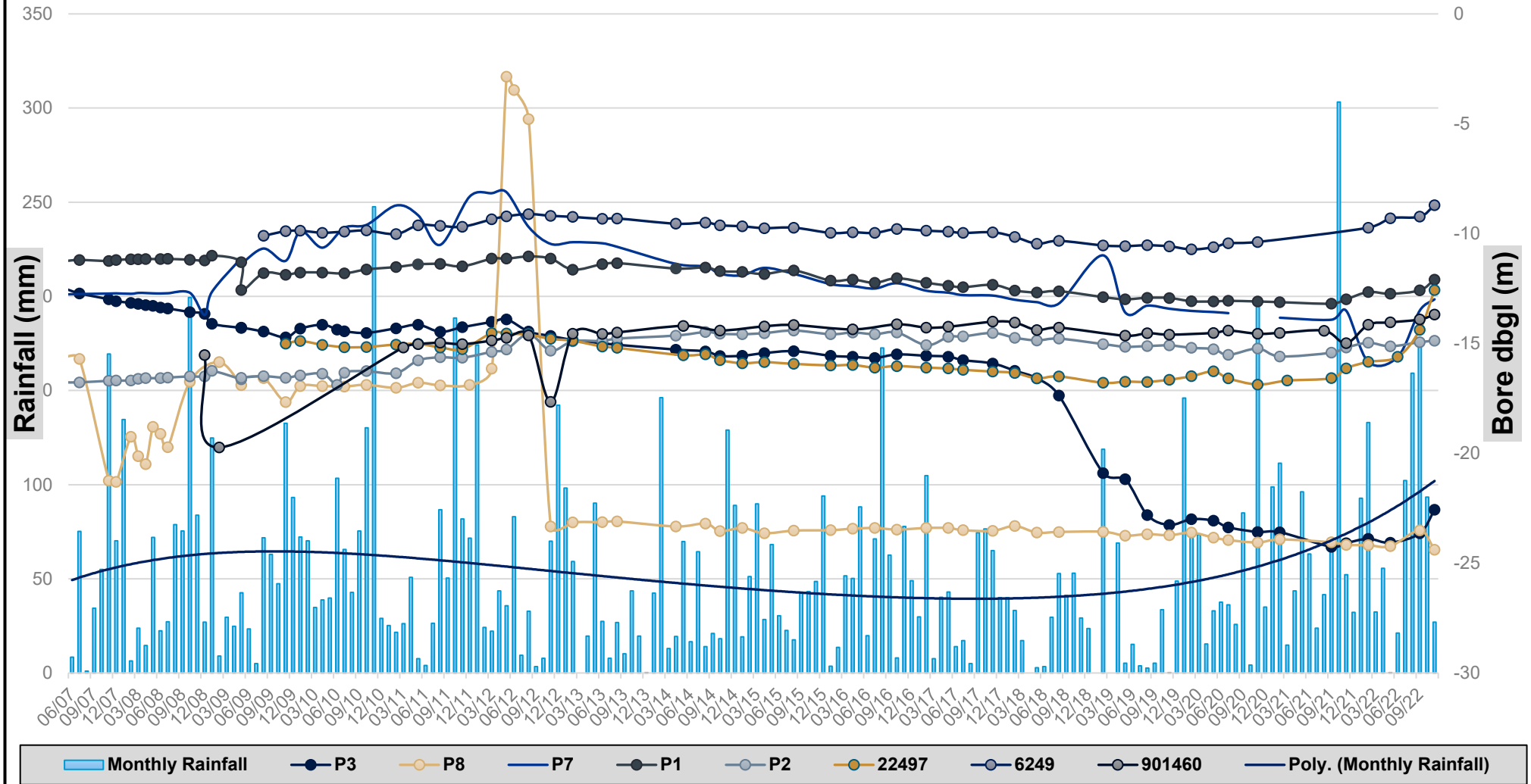
### Groundwater Monitoring

Groundwater monitoring is undertaken from a range of monitoring piezometers and water bores both within and surrounding the mine site. Standing Water Level (SWL) checks are undertaken on a quarterly basis, with full water quality sampling undertaken on a 6 monthly basis.

Groundwater levels continue to rise in sync with increased rainfall at the end of 2022.

There has been no groundwater extraction. Groundwater licence has been transferred to another site.

## Sunnyside Coal Mine Production Bores & Piezo depth, with precipitation



### **Surface Water**

Surface water sampling of storages onsite continues to be carried out on a quarterly basis by ALS Contractors.

### **Complaints**

No complaints have been received for the Sunnyside Coal Mine since the previous CCC meeting.

### **Rehabilitation**

Rehabilitation undertaken since last meeting

#### **General Rehab:**

- Detailed annual ecological survey – Undertaken in October 2022, waiting on report.
- Weed treatment including spraying and slashing.
- Ongoing tube stock planting.
- Pasture trial – controlling buffel grass to promote native pasture species establishment.

In the coming months, work will commence on the highwall drain which will divert all run-on water away from highwall batter.

The Rehabilitation Management Plan submitted in July 2022 is now in effect and can be found on the Whitehaven website.