

Community Consultative Committee

Meeting Held: 14 May 2020 from 2:00pm

Venue: Via videoconferencing (Microsoft Teams)

1.0 Welcome

DR welcomed everyone to the Joint CCC meeting and notified of the apologies received.

2.0 Present and Apologies

Present: Anthony Margetts (AM) – Boggabri Coal, Colleen Fuller (CF) – Gunnedah Shire Council, Darren Swain (DS) – MCCM, Emma Bulkeley (EB) – MCCM, Geoff Eather (GE) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Hamish Russell (HR) – BCOPL, Jack Warnock (JW) – Maules Creek, Cr Lloyd Finlay (LF), Libby Laird (LL) – Maules Creek, John Hamson (JHa) – Tarrawonga Coal, Peter Forbes (PF) – Boggabri Coal, Richard Gillham (RGI) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Robert Kneale (RK) – Narrabri Shire Council, Roselyn Druce (RD) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Sebastien Moreno (SB) – Tarrawonga Coal, Rebecca Ryan - Tarrawonga CCC (RR), Ross Wilson (RW) – MCCM, Steve Eather (SE) – Maules Creek CCC, Tim McDermott (TM) – Boggabri Coal CCC

Apologies: Andrew Johns (AJ) – Gunnedah Shire, Catherine Collyer (CC) – BTM CCCs, Cameron Staines - Narrabri Shire Council, Julie Heiler (JH) – Tarrawonga CCC, Mitchum Neave (MN) – Boggabri Coal CCC, Simone Moodie (SMo) – Maules Creek CCC

Independent Chair: David Ross (DR)

Independent Secretary: Debbie Corlet (DC)

Guests: Steve O’Donaghue and Rose-Anne Hawkeswood - DPIE

3.0 Declaration of Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests

JH, RD, & RGI - Have properties that have been acquired or fall into the ‘Zone of Affectation’ for acquisition. DR gets paid for chairing these meetings as does DC for typing the minutes.

4.0 Acceptance of Previous Minutes and Business Arising

October 2019 Joint CCC meeting – the minutes were accepted by all present as an appropriate reflection on what was discussed.

5.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

DR talked to the few actions arising from the last meeting.

There were some actions on ARTC; however, their Environmental Manager had resigned. DR discussed these actions – whether the ARTC newsletter could in an electronic format and how many train movements were coming through Boggabri a day – with Leah Cook who is now the Principal Advisor, Environment and Community. Leah noted that ARTC are currently looking into having the newsletters in an electronic format.

DR will invite all BTM CCC members to notify him as to whether they want to be on ARTC's subscription list. Leah also noted that there were approximately 20 coal trains passing through Boggabri in a 24-hour period.

There had also been an action on DR to seek advice from DPIE as to whether the Vickery CCC could become a part of the BTM CCC complex. The Department noted that, as the Vickery proposal hasn't been assessed yet, it is too early to be considering an expansion of the Joint CCC.

6.0 Company Reports

BCOPL Report by Hamish

COVID-19

HR commenced by describing the COVID-19 mitigation measures that Boggabri Coal have implemented. These include, but are not restricted to: risk assessment process in place; social distancing; temperature checking of all personnel upon entry to site; staggered shift start times; limiting number of people in rooms, vehicles / trucks and buses; and working from home.

Tree Clearing and Boggabri Child Care Centre

83 hectares cleared in a recent tree clearing program. HR noted that Greg Bartlett Construction of Tamworth will build Boggabri's first childcare centre. Work is expected to start in May.

Query from previous Joint CCC Meeting re Drawdown and modelling

There had been an action on HR and PF to provide information on why there is recharge and the associated modelling. 'Recharge' was in reference to the effect on standing water levels in monitoring bores located in the alluvium, as a result of the operation of Boggabri's Coals bore field. MOD 5's drawdown impact assessment modelled negligible impact to standing water levels.

HR proceeded to discuss groundwater monitoring; recharge of alluvium monitoring bores; recharge of bores in the alluvium between BCO and the river; and water storage on site, which is at peak capacity.

- **Groundwater monitoring** - Leards Forest – boundary by red. Blue in the foreground in the alluvium – we've got those monitoring bores.
- **Recharge of alluvium monitoring bores** – 2 years' worth of rainwater data. Red line and black line – drop by a few hundred cms – recovering at the end of the reporting period.
- **Recharge of bores** - 2 years' worth of monitoring data – these bores are located on privately owned properties. Those fluctuations – light blue line – when the bore was being used there was a significant change. Then it returns when not in use. The recharge has occurred and gone to normal?
- **Water storage on site** – Lot of historical data from 2013 – we've never had so much water on 1.2 gigalitres on site. Measures in place to maximum in storage and minimise the other sources.

RD question – Where is the modelling and the reasons why there was a recharge?

HR – Need access to the modelling in our Mod 5 on our website and the Dept of Planning website. You will find the drawdown assessment in there.

Maules Creek Mine Report by Darren

Health and Safety – COVID-19 Considerations

DS described the COVID-19 mitigation measures that Maules Creek Coal Mine have implemented. These include, but are not restricted to: temperature screening prior to boarding buses in town or at Security Gate; approval application process for all Visitors to site; social distancing; a designated First-Aid transport bus with a Perspex seal separating driver compartment from the seating area; prominently displayed posters outlining hygiene, social distancing and COVID precautions. Foot pedal hand washing stations. All the workers and bus passengers where surgical masks.

Employment

Continued focus on local, indigenous, and female employment with ongoing training programs undertaken. There have been 26 new trainees employed from January to April 2020. 3 Apprentices were employed – all from the local area. Over 600 people employed on site.

Air Quality Monitoring

DS presented on the annual rolling average for TEOM1, which is 28.1 ug/m³ at 31 March 2020 (criteria 30ug/m³). There were numerous regional air quality events stemming from dust storms and fires from September 2019 to February 2020. Ongoing dust suppressant application across the operation. Progressive overburden emplacement and bulk shaping on the northern dump, with some topsoil spreading.

Water

WHC is taking steps at all their mines to conserve water and support water security. The primary water source for Maules Creek is a High Security Water Licence drawing upon the Namoi River, however this water source has been severely impacted by the drought. Recent rains have seen the river flow again.

Biodiversity Management

With respect to MCCM's management of biodiversity. DS noted that:

- During the most recent routine Whitehaven Offset Area Feral Animal Control program (March 2020) the results included: 6 out of total 59 pigs trapped were from the Maules Creek / Boggabri area (very wet); and 28 out of total 156 baits (1,080) taken were from the Maules Creek / Boggabri area.
- Undertaken ground preparation for upcoming tree planting program over 600ha.
- Continued fire break maintenance program following wet weather.
- Autumn flora monitoring program underway. Redundant Infrastructure Removal. Continued removal of redundant fences from Wirradale and Wongala properties.
- Feral Animal Monitoring and Control Program in May and June 2020. Winter Bird and Spring 2020 Flora Monitoring. Planning and assessment for 2020 ecological and HR burn program.

AHS Movement to Date – April 2020

DS noted that six EH5000s have now operated autonomously. 16,428km travelled autonomously. 2,685 haul cycles (real and test). 1,896 loads hauled autonomously. 250,073bcm (572,979t) of waste hauled.

Community and Local Spend

Due to COVID-19 social distancing, numerous local events that WHC had committed to support have been postponed or cancelled. Where possible Whitehaven will continue to support the local community through this time. WHC Mining Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mechatronics, Geology, or Environmental Science. Full details on website – <https://whitehaven.applynow.net.au/jobs/WHC419-2020-cadetship-program>.

Sponsorships and donations for January to March 2020: Tamworth and Region was \$16,500. Narrabri area community was \$21,000. Gunnedah area community was \$88,000 and other areas including Australian Red Cross, Westpac Rescue Helicopter etc was \$160,000.

LL – Question re the slide around water and 3,000 megalitres – has WHC pumped any water from the river since the last CCC?

DS: Yes.

LL: How much?

DS: about 270ML

LL: has any been on-sold?

DS – No, it hasn't been on-sold – the business will make a call at the end of next month but certainly not at this point.

ACTION: DS to provide members with copy of presentation.

Tarrawonga Mine Report by Sebastian

SM described the mitigation measures the mine has implemented with respect to COVID-19. These are similar to those described above by DS.

Environment

SM noted that 29.0 hectares have been cleared during the 2020 tree clearing campaign. With respect to rehabilitation, the tree planting campaign in 2019 amounted to 4,200 trees over 20 hectares. Annual Reporting submitted in March 2020:

- Annual Return 2019 (EPA) and
- Annual Review 2019 (DPE) – uploaded on WHC Website.

There has been ongoing support to community (\$70K spent in CY2019 increased by 10%). Approvals included:

- MOP (Amendment E) approved in January 2020.
- Variation EPL12365 approved in January 2020.
- Modification (MOD 7) of PA11_0047 submitted to DPIE in April 2020.

Next 6 months+ (Including Environment)

Production expected to ramp up. Local employment will continue as required. Health and Safety programs will continue.

- Annual Reporting:
 - Compliance Statement 2019 (EPBC) due in June 2020.
- Rehabilitation:
 - Tree planting campaign 2020 (6,000 trees over 30 hectares).
 - More trials in the rehabilitation areas (i.e. different planting techniques).
- Approvals:
 - Submission of New MOP (before November 2020).

LL – Question re modifications. There is a MOD 7 but there is also MOD 8. It's very confusing.

SM – There are 2 modifications. 1st was Mod 8 – temporary water haulage and bore field to the mine. Mod 7 was supposed to be submitted earlier but wasn't. So, just submitted 8 before 7. Mod 8 was temporary because of the drought. We have enough water now at Tarrawonga, but we still put it through and still waiting on it.

LL – There is also a Life of **M**ine Mod. Are you saying that you are proposing that the mine is going to be smaller? Are you working to go deeper?

SM and JH observed that WHC is not going to mine in alluvium – into the east of the mine. The footprint will be smaller.

RD (to SM) – Rehabilitation trials – what types of different techniques are you hoping to use.

SM – We are trying different things including different depths of topsoil, fertilisers – some without. Seeding – try to find the best and successful option. We are trying different things. We are limited to our approvals and using what is recommended but we do try different techniques.

7.0 General Business

DR welcomed and thanked Rose-Anne Hawkeswood and Steve O'Donoghue from DPIE for attending and answering any questions from members.

LL - How many and where did the the Maules Creek Mine get the surgical masks from?

DS: We got 60,000 surgical masks from China. We use 600 per day.

LL: How did you manage to get so many masks when they were not available to others?

RW: We have been planning for the pandemic since January.

RD – Re COVID-19 – who is responsible for the contractors on and offsite – social distancing and hygiene is that WHC or their relevant companies.

RW – It would be a combination – in the camp it is the responsibility of the individual and Civeo Camp – commuting to and from camp it is our responsibility.

LL – Question to Steve re the Annual Reviews. Why are WHC saying the Maules Creek mine Annual Review was submitted in March and will not be back until September 2020- and the mine considers this a typical timeframe? What is going on in the DPE what do you do with it, the community are requesting the Reviews?

SOD – DPIE Compliance essentially review it and DPIE Water may review it as well. Issues are clarified and then it goes back to the mining to provide more info. It might take information to get DPIE to get involved. I'm not sure where the current status is for Maules. SOD observed that he is not sure if that's typical. I'll feed that back to Heidi. I'll get more information and the steps taken and let DR know.

ACTION - SOD to report back to DR on steps taken for reviewing mines' annual reviews.

LL – Regarding explosive plant on Braymont Road were DPIE involved in assessing that?

SOD – I don't think that's come to us as a State development – I think it's a local.

LL – I thought it was between the mines?

DS – But not one of ours? HR – Boggabri don't use those explosives.

LF – I think it was about 18 months ago that it went to Narrabri Council.

ACTION – LF to report back to DR on outcome of NSC assessment.

LF - Production and agriculture land used for offsets. Issue ongoing for 7 or 8 years. WHC always getting "in trouble" for good ag land – they're only doing what the Department of Planning are directing them to do.

SOD – Offset package as part of the assessment process. Intact forest and introduce the rehabilitated landform. That's part of the strategy for both Boggabri and Maules and to a lesser degree Tarrawonga – broader offset strategy that is proposed.

DR – I have a question from Mitchum Neave re the value the Department places on the CCC. Does DPIE see that the CCCs and the community play an important role?

SOD – Yes, they do. It's in good faith – its respectful, communicates and people listen to people's views. The members have good suggestions -it's set up as a 2-way communication. Feedback how the mines can do better and feedback to the community – factual and the community can stop with the whispers.

LL – Tarrawonga Mod 7 – when is it going on exhibition?

RAH – Not sure – will go out on our website and go into the local paper shortly.

LL – Any modifications coming up or any major projects we need to be aware of?

SOD – Mod 7 next Tuesday 19 May going on exhibition.

Compliments were provided by some members for the mines for their ongoing support for Carols in the Park, the Lions Club BBQ as well as for their assistance with Westlands in delivering food.

RG – I don't think they should be on the gravel roads – the tarred roads are there for them to use. They don't need to be on the gravel roads as well.

DR – Noise concerns associated with the trains over the last couple of weeks has been brought to my attention. I've passed that onto Leah Cook at ARTC. Any future concerns you or the wider community have should be passed on to ARTC via enviroline@artc.com.au or 1300 550 402.

RD – There is probably nothing that the ARTC can do about the noise levels due to inversion layers. I can hear them ever night; they're very loud.

Meeting closed at 3:40 pm.

9.0 Next Joint CCC Meeting – 29 October 2020.

Action List

| Page No | Action No | Action to be completed | Action Owner |
|----------------|------------------|---|---------------------|
| 2 | 1 | DR will invite all BTM CCC members to notify him as to whether they want to be on ARTC's subscription list. | David Ross |
| 3 | 2 | DS to provide members with copy of presentation. | Darren Swain |
| 4 | 3 | SOD to report back to DR on steps taken for reviewing mines' annual reviews. | Steve O'Donaghue |
| 4 | 4 | LF to report back to DR on outcome of NSC assessment of explosives plant. | Lloyd Finlay |