

**Notes:** Notes of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Tarrawonga Coal Community Consultative Committee  
Held at the Tarrawonga Coal Mine Training Room

**Wednesday 24 May 2023**

**Members Present:** Alison Quiroz (AQ) – TCM, Cr Rob Hooke – Gunnedah Shire Council (RH), Elizabeth O’Hara (EOH) – Community Representative, Jackie Scott (JS) – WHC, Lloyd Finlay (LF) – Community Representative, Mark Hathway (MHa) – Community Representative, Michelle Henry (MH) – Narrabri Shire Council, Omar Romeril (OR) – TCM, Prashanth Van Houten (PvH) –Gunnedah Shire Council (alternate)

**Apologies:** Colleen Fuller (CF) – Community Representative, Cr Darrell Tiemens – Narrabri Shire Council (DT), Megan Martin (MM) – TCM, Wade Hudson (WH) – GSC Representative

**Independent Chair:** David Ross (DR)

**Independent Secretary:** Debbie Corlet (DC)

<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Who to Present</b>
1. Welcome and Apologies	DR
2. Declaration of pecuniary or other interests	DR
3. Minutes from Previous Meeting	DR
4. Actions from Previous Meeting	DR
5. Mine Progress Report	MM
6. Environmental Monitoring Report	MM & AQ
7. General Business	ALL
8. Next Meeting – <b>Wednesday 30 August 2023</b>	ALL

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b> – DR welcomed everyone to the CCC meeting. DR advised that Rebecca Ryan has resigned from the CCC. DR advised that he has started advertising for new members but to date the response has been underwhelming.	
2.	<b>Declaration of pecuniary or other interests</b> – EOH has a small package of WHC shares. LF leases country from WHC. DR is paid a fee as chair as is DC for typing the minutes.	
3.	<b>Minutes from Previous Meeting</b> – Members accepted the minutes appropriately reflected what was discussed.	
4.	<p><b>Actions from Previous Meeting</b> – DR – Most actions from Previous Meeting have been completed.</p> <p>EOH – Discussed Molycop Recycling, which appears not to be currently ready to recycle mining truck tyres. However, it may be worthwhile for TCM to explore this. PvH also mentioned possibilities with Andromeda Industries.</p> <p>AQ – We will definitely look into this further.</p> <p>RH – Will provide an update next month after GSC’s meeting with UNSW’s Professor Veena Sahajwalla.</p>	<p>ACTION 1 – Mine to report on progress on tyre recycling.</p> <p>ACTION 2 – RH to report back next month on meeting with UNSW.</p>
5.	<p><b>Mine Progress Report – Overview</b></p> <p>OR commenced the report by providing members with an update on the mine’s safety statistics before discussing how mining production has progressed. The mine is on track to achieve revised targets of about 1.93 Mt in FY23.</p> <p>EOH – How many days have the evaporators been used in 2023?</p> <p>AQ – They’ve been used since January but not on every day - needs to have good weather.</p> <p>RH – Water you use within the mine site, this is captured from the mine site. How long can you maintain the internal watering system for?</p> <p>OR – 1.5 ML during a day. We have about 700 ML in the pit plus the mine water. Probably see us through for a couple of years.</p>	<p>ACTION 3 – AQ to provide details on evaporators’ use since January.</p>

6.

## Monitoring and Environmental Performance

### Community Overview

With respect to the mine's donations and sponsorships, JS described the diverse areas in which WHC is providing donations and seeking to partner such as with "Little Wings", who provide flights for sick children. This is particularly in the areas of health, education, whole of community, and sport. For those who have ideas for applications, please contact JS at any time. Sponsorships and Donations information can be found <https://whitehavencoal.com.au/sustainability/community/donations-sponsorships/>

### Haulage Hours Modification

AQ then spoke to some slides about the proposed modification. Whitehaven is proposing a modification to PA 11\_0047 to authorise additional road haulage hours on the approved haulage route between the Tarrawonga Mine and the Gunnedah CHPP. This would create no change to noise levels, mine production, or the life of the mine.

MH observed some disparities in information between what CCC members had already received in the past fortnight and what was presented at the CCC meeting, particularly with respect to what hours are being extended.

In addition, MH noted that she had received three different versions of the Traffic Management Plan (TMP). They are supposed to be prepared in consultation with Council. Latest TMP includes the Vickery's Mine plan. Instead, she is seeking only the TMP for Tarrawonga and what is proposed for the modification.

There was then a discussion with respect to additional information required. EOH – The community have a concern about the cumulative impact. Road haulage impacts including Vickery's – what's the increased haulage? MH – Also truck numbers of trucks in and out.

RH – I'm part of the Vickery's CCC – no change in the tonnage going through. Is this modification purely to take pressure off the system?

MH – Has to do with rostering of drivers. WHC has purchased Gunnedah Bulk. Won't WHC staff operate those vehicles?

In evaluating the committee's concerns and confusion in response to the information presented, DR requested that WHC be tasked with a series of actions to be completed in the next week. These actions are:

1. Provide members with no more than half a page clarifying why the modification is necessary.
2. Clarification of the hours proposed.
3. Clarification for NSC with respect to the details of the TMP and which version is relevant.
4. Clarification of Gunnedah Bulk's involvement and why this is necessary.
5. Truck movements in and out and whether these are to change compared to current volumes.

ACTION 4 – WHC to respond to modification actions within a week.

The reason that DR wanted these actions to be completed urgently was so that committee members were appropriately informed before the anticipated exhibition of the modification in the coming weeks.

LF – Can we have a commitment that both councils will maintain the roads as they are shocking?  
Both NSC and GSC committed to taking that request back to appropriate staff to consider.

EOH – Re Water Management Plan and 8th September amendment – was that information given to the CCC and did we discuss this at all? Have I missed something?

AQ – It may have been mentioned briefly.

DR – After the discussion about the modification, may need a future slide about “What is Anticipated / What is Coming Up” for the next 3 months.

### **Monitoring and Compliance**

AQ summarised the key environmental activities on site over the last quarter. Evaporator fans have been installed and the sedimentation dams have been dewatered, with desilting to take place in response to reduced rainfall. The water management plan and rehabilitation plan are currently being worked on in consultation with DPE.

EOH – Was there a pollution incident 14th April 2023 as there were three community members who took photos?

AQ – We’ve only just received information this week from the EPA about a complaint about the dust. We did have a blast on 14<sup>th</sup> April in the morning. It stayed within the mine.

It was observed that the incident may be due to adjacent land use. It’s not always the mine.

### **Tyre Disposal Update**

AQ noted that on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022, 319 tonnes of tyre were buried onsite. A report has now been submitted to DPE.

PvH – Do they specify the types of soil that the tyres are buried in?

AQ – I’m not sure as I’m not involved but the report to be submitted to DPE should include everything, such as where they are located, how high they are buried.

### **Groundwater Levels**

EOH – Re P1, 2 and 3 – when are the water monitors going to be in place and when will they be recording?

AQ – TCM has just completed the groundwater bores. Will now work on installing the water monitors.

ACTION 5 – New slide to be added for every CCC Meeting – “What is Anticipated / What is Coming Up”.

ACTION 6 – AQ to provide link to DR of where report of tyre disposal is mentioned on website.

	EOH – TA65 is a water monitoring location. However, the monitoring data don't appear to be in the report for December 2022 in the quarter monitoring report. It's significant to us.	ACTION 7 – AQ to provide TA65 data.
7.	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p>MHa – I was unaware that WHC have bought the bulk business. Was curious if there was a program to re-configure them to have them standardised.</p> <p>EOH – Community have asked for a map off the offsets to determine if any offsets are potentially to be impacted from the proposed Santos pipeline. Where are the offsets for Tarrawonga and if impacted by the pipeline.</p> <p>EOH – Did Tarrawonga do any clearing this year? If so, how much? Did any animals have to be euthanised?  AQ – It has all been done in line with what was discussed at our last CCC meeting. There were no injured animals.</p>	ACTION 8 – Tarrawonga to provide a large map showing the offset areas with names.
8.	<p><b>Next meeting date</b> – Wednesday 30 August 2023. This will be a site visit.</p> <p>DR – Thanked everyone for their time.</p>	

Meeting Closed: 11:34 am.

**Appendix 1: Actions**

<b>Page No</b>	<b>Action No</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date Raised</b>
2	1	Mine to report on progress on tyre recycling.	24 May 2023
2	2	RH to report back next month on meeting with UNSW.	24 May 2023
2	3	AQ to provide details on evaporators' use since January.	24 May 2023
3	4	WHC to respond to modification actions within a week.	24 May 2023
4	5	New slide to be added for every CCC Meeting – “What is Anticipated / What is Coming Up”.	24 May 2023
4	6	Provide link to DR of where report of tyre disposal is mentioned on website.	24 May 2023
4	7	AQ to provide TA65 data.	24 May 2023
5	8	Tarrawonga to provide a large map showing the offset areas with names.	24 May 2023