

Whitehaven Vickery Extension Project
Community Consultative Committee

FINAL MINUTES

Meeting Date: 24 October 2024

Venue: WHC Boardroom, Gunnedah Conadilly Street, Gunnedah, 2380 and Zoom

Invitees	
Community Representatives Gunnedah Shire Council Wade Hudson, Manager Development Assessment Gunnedah Shire Council (WH)	Whitehaven Coal Megan Martin, Environmental Superintendent (MM) Matthew Sparkes, Manager Operations (MS) Independent Chairperson Professor Roberta Ryan (RR) Minute taker Isa Crossland Stone (ICS)
Apologies Darren Swain – Whitehaven Coal (DS) Barry Thompson, Community Representative (BT) Keith Blanch, Community Representative (KB) <i>Narrabri Shire Council Representatives</i>	

Item	Description	Action
1	Welcome, agenda, apologies, declarations - RR	
	<p>There are no declarations.</p> <p>WH confirms the previous minutes.</p>	
2	Actions arising	
	<p>1. Group to touch on community member recruitment for 2025.</p> <p>RR says that the committee has previously been assembled primarily by word of mouth and existing social connections. Newspaper notices have not been particularly successful to date.</p> <p>WH suggests that future advertisement should note that meetings can be attended virtually; this may be a point of encouragement for some community members.</p> <p>RR says this is a good idea. She asks MM if Whitehaven distributes regular newsletters. Perhaps a CCC recruitment piece could be included in that?</p> <p>MM says that they are soon going to deliver a project update letter to the community, but otherwise they do not tend or intend to make regular letterbox distributions.</p> <p>WH suggests that the Councils can include links on the Council Facebook pages and websites, as the group agrees that recruitment is likely to be most successful through Council and direct community connections.</p> <p>WH asks of there is an upper limit for community members on a committee.</p> <p>RR says that there is not a specific number. Generally, 5-7 community members is the standard amount.</p> <p>Community member attendance on this committee has not historically been an issue, so she will follow up with community members about how best to proceed with community presence and participation on the committee.</p> <p>The group agrees that Whitehaven should issue a newspaper notice for recruitment in both the Gunnedah Shire Times and the Narrabri Shire Times.</p> <p>WH will also follow up about the Council's use of social media to get the word out.</p>	<p>RR to follow up with community members about how best to proceed with increased community presence and participation on the committee.</p>

	<p>All of these recruitment notices will specify the option for virtual attendance via Zoom in order to widen the possible network of community input.</p> <p>MM and JdK will draft up this advert and share it with RR and then distribute it.</p> <p>RR notes that there are no current Terms of Reference for this committee – many committees do not have them. However, one can easily be drafted if people would like one. In the meantime, RR can discuss the key terms of the CCC (which are included in the Department Guidelines) with any potential committee members.</p> <p>The question of whether a ToR document should be drafted will be brought forward at the next meeting to the community members.</p>	<p>MM/JdK to draft up a CCC recruitment advert and share it with RR before distributing it.</p> <p>Group to discuss whether a ToR document should be drafted for the CCC.</p>
3	Environmental report - MM	
	<p>MM shares the Whitehaven Vickery Environmental report and notes that the dust gauges are a requirement of SSD-5000 which we still comply with.</p> <p>This presentation slides are attached to these minutes.</p> <p>WH asks if the original approval is less onerous than the original project approval.</p> <p>MM says it is, the VEP consent has more monitoring conditions.</p> <p>MM will let RR know when the MOD1 response to submissions is available, early next calendar year. RR will share it with the group.</p> <p>RR asks what the water-related concerns in the submissions (identified in MM’s slides) relate to specifically.</p> <p>MM says that mostly they have arisen from questions about how much water will be pumped and how the project will be managed. These concerns and questions will all be addressed in the Response to Submissions and supported with technical evidence/reporting.</p>	<p>MM to be in touch with RR when the MOD1 response to submissions is available, early next calendar year. RR will share it with the group.</p>
4	Community update - MM	
	<p>MM presents the Whitehaven Vickery Community Update on behalf of JDK, who was not able to attend today.</p> <p>MM’s presentation slides, which include outlines of community investment strategy, are attached to these minutes.</p>	

	<p>WH asks about the ‘discretionary sources’ of funding. Is this distinct from investment commitments?</p> <p>MM confirms that it is additional and does not take away from any other community investment. This additional funding is allocated in response to funding applications, so MM encourages community members to apply.</p>	
5	Project / approvals update and next steps - MS	
	<p>MS presents the Whitehaven Vickery Project update. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes.</p> <p>RR asks where the workforce is being sourced from. Are they local candidates?</p> <p>MS says that they are favoring local candidates (partially in order to manage fatigue levels, relating to safety compliance concerns).</p> <p>MS notes that there were no recordable injuries in the first quarter of this year. There are comprehensive safety education and management strategies, and these appear to have been very successful.</p> <p>WH asks if workers from Werris Creek are tending to transfer to Vickery.</p> <p>MS says yes, there is a high level of transfer.</p> <p>There have also been several new local recruitments for the project.</p>	
6	General Business	
	<p>The group discusses future meeting dates. Given that there are not many key issues anticipated in the coming months, the group agrees on dates for the four upcoming meetings.</p> <p>ICS will send hold notification to the group for each of the following dates in 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 6th • May 1st • July 24th • October 23rd <p>RR thanks the attendees for their presence and discussion at the meeting today and wishes them well.</p>	